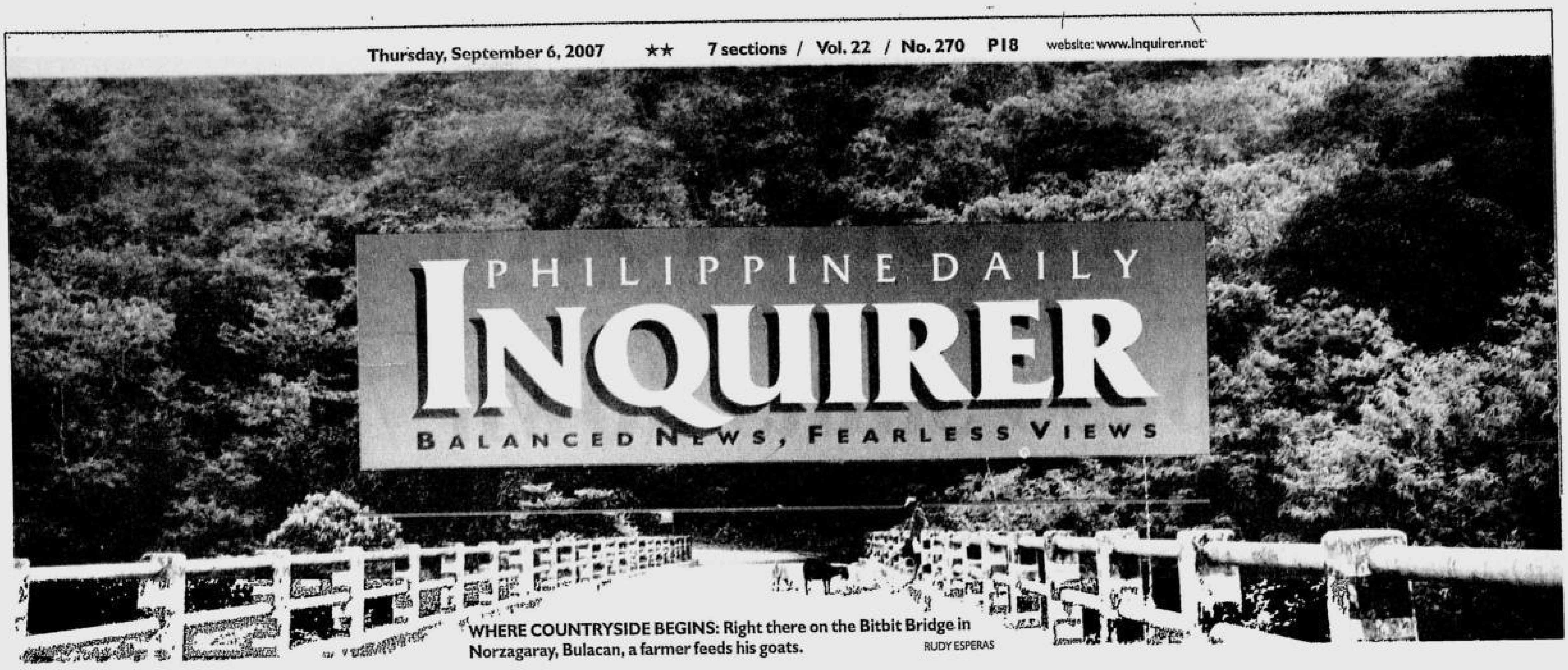
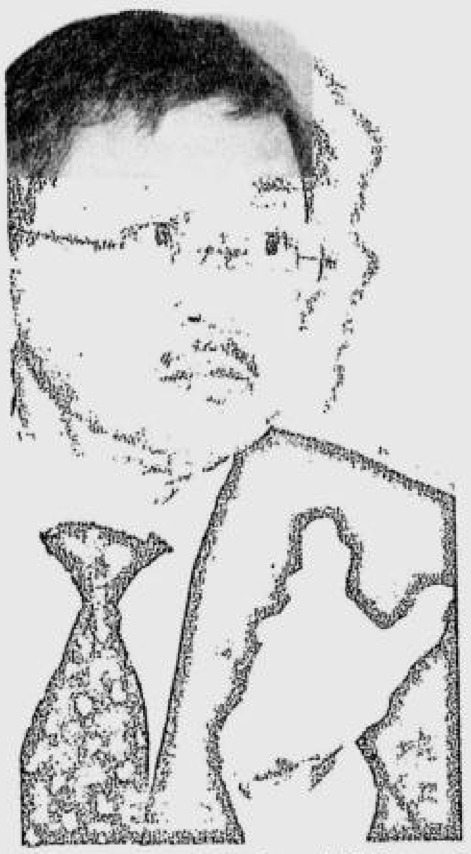
Thursday, September 6, 2007 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 270 P18 website: www.inquirer.net



PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHERE COUNTRYSIDE BEGINS: Right there on the Bitbit Bridge in Norzagaray, Bulacan, a farmer feeds his goats. RUDY ESPERAS

Neri doesn't confirm, deny ₱200-M bribe



NERI tells Arnold Clavio and Ali Sotto of "Dobol A sa Dobol B" on the alleged P200-M bribe offer: It's really difficult for me to say yes or no. Later, he tells the INQUIRER, I cannot talk about it right now. INQUIRER PHOTO

He also says it's DOTC which should answer concerns

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christine O. Avendaño

FORMER SOCIOECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY Romulo Neri yesterday refused to confirm or deny that he was offered a P200-million bribe to support the controversial national broadband network (NBN) project that Chinese telecommunications giant ZTE won.

"I don't know. I cannot talk about it right now," he told the INQUIRER, pointing out that he could not comment "on a speculative issue."

But Neri said he would talk when properly summoned by Congress.

Earlier, in an interview yesterday morning on radio dzBB, host Arnold Clavio suggested he could have retired and gone on a cruise if he had accepted the alleged P200-million bribe, to which Neri replied: "I can't do that. It will be in my conscience and I believe in bad karma."

In the dzBB interview, Neri also said, when asked on the supposed bribery: "It's really difficult for me to say yes or no. It's difficult to prove either way."

Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico said he was considering getting the testimony of Neri to support an impeachment complaint he had threatened to file against Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos over Abalos' supposed role in the deal.

The National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) board, presided over by President Macapagal-Arroyo herself, approved the NBN project, Neri told the INQUIRER.

"The Neda approved the broadband

NERI DOESN'T/ A4

FOR HOME, COUNTRY AND BABY, TOO: Ensign Jeffrey Legaspi of the Philippine Navy plants a farewell kiss on his only child, Genesis Matthew, before departing for Basilan with the other members of the 1st Naval Mobile Construction Battalion and the 355th Aviation Engineering Wing of the Philippine Air Force to carry out the humanitarian offensive ordered by President Arroyo. REM ZAMORA

Lomibao named to Berroya's job at LTO

By Michael Lim Ubac

ON THE EVE OF HER DEPARture for an Asia-Pacific summit in Sydney, President Macapagal-Arroyo has effected another round of changes in her official family.

She broadened the powers of Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera at the Department of Justice by naming her acting secretary, and kicked upstairs Land Transportation Office chief Reynaldo Berroya by designating him assistant secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications, according to a Malacañang announcement.

Berroya was replaced at the LTO by another key ally of the Arroyo administration, retired Philippine National Police chief

LOMIBAO/ A6

WHAT'S INSIDE

WORLD / A19
'Chemical Ali' sentenced to death by hanging

WORLD / A20
Germany, Denmark foil attacks on Frankfurt airport, US hub

SPORTS / A24
Nadal crashes out of US Open in huge upset

Business, FVR, Enrile, Ermita on Erap verdict

THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY WILL BE disappointed if Joseph Estrada is acquitted by the Sandiganbayan of plunder, a securities analyst said yesterday.

But it will also be disappointed if the ousted President is convicted and subsequently pardoned by President Macapagal-Arroyo, said Astro del Castillo, a director of the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines.

"It's the right opportunity to create a model to go after grafters," Del Castillo told the INQUIRER.

"Reconciliation will always be there. But we have a long list of pardoned

BUSINESS/ A15

CA upholds murder raps vs Leviste

By Leila B. Salaverria

FORMER BATANGAS GOV. JOSE ANTONIO Leviste will continue to be charged with murder, with the Court of Appeals dismissing his petition questioning the reinvestigation of his case and the upgrading of the initial charge of homicide.

In a decision issued on Aug. 30, the appellate court upheld the finding of Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel

CA UPHOLDS/ A5

GMA set to have 20-minute meeting with Bush tomorrow

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SYDNEY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo will have a 20-minute meeting with US President George W. Bush tomorrow on the sidelines of the Apec summit this weekend that is expected to set directions for climate change, human security and trade.

Ms Arroyo is expected to arrive here at 9 p.m. today to join the 20 other leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

The Bush-Arroyo meeting will take place at the Intercontinental Sydney Hotel right after a lunch hosted by the US president for seven attending leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Ms Arroyo is this year's chair of the Asean.

Shortly before the Bush-Arroyo

GMA SET/ A8

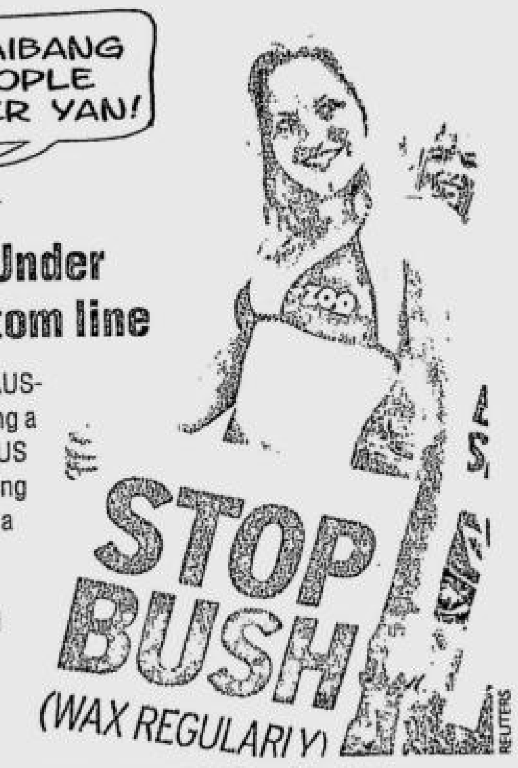
KAKAIBANG PEOPLE POWER YAN!

Protesters Down Under to show Bush bottom line

SYDNEY—A GAME GROUP OF AUStralian antiwar activists is planning a cheeky protest against a visit by US President George W. Bush—baring bottoms in what is hoped will be a world-record moon.

Organizer Will Saunders said the protest tomorrow was aimed at lightening the mood in Sydney, a city currently patrolled by 5,000 police and soldiers and divided by a massive steel and concrete fence ahead of the Asia-Pacific Eco-

PROTESTERS/ A8



PROTEST AND PROMO are joined at the anti-Iraq war picket line in Sydney now patrolled by 5,000 troops to secure the Apec heads of state led by US President Bush. REUTERS

Joma not covered by amnesty, says Esperon

By Cynthia D. Balana

SELF-EXILED COMMUNIST LEADER Jose Ma. Sison may not be covered by an amnesty proclamation for communist rebels which Malacañang will issue soon, according to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

Interviewed by the INQUIRER during the celebration of the 50th National Day of Malaysia on Tuesday night, Esperon said he doubted if Sison himself would avail of the amnesty proclamation.

Esperon pointed out that Sison was being tried in The Netherlands for ordering the assassination in the Philippines of his former comrades, a crime under Dutch law.

"I think he will not be covered. It's The Netherlands that is charging him with felonious acts. He may not be cov-

JOMA NOT/ A9

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(All in exact order)

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Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/09/05/07 SOURCE PAGASA

Strong peso shuts down 75 firms

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO'S SHARP RISE AGAINST THE UNITED States dollar has led to the shutdown of 75 mostly small-and-medium export enterprises, resulting in P1.5 billion in foreign exchange losses in the first half of the year, industry leaders claimed yesterday.

Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Exporters' Confederation, appealed to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to reconsider its foreign exchange policy and slow down the peso's appreciation to prevent the export sector from losing its global competitiveness.

He said the estimated losses and company closures in the first semester were reported by leaders of the food, handicrafts, furnitures and garments industry which is urging that the peso be made to remain within a range of 48-50 to the US dollar "within a fixed period of time resembling export trading cycles."

"We cannot survive with the presently strong peso, especially one that rapidly appreciates or one that widely fluctuates," Ortiz-Luis said.

"The strong-peso-equals-a-strong-economy argument is only a myth...We only have to look at the export figures to know that while total export revenues are increasing, the fact is 80 percent of our exports are labor-intensive and has thus fallen victim to the appreciating peso," he said.

The peso closed at 46.64:$1 yesterday, representing a gain of nearly 5 percent since the start of the year.

Exporters from the electronics and garments industry, the country's top two export performers, have not been spared losses as well, although they import the bulk of their raw materials, Ortiz-Luis said.

He attacked the policy of defending the peso as "jurassic," arguing that China has adamantly ignored global criticism and deliberately kept the yuan undervalued to be able to make its exports more attractive to overseas buyers.

"We appreciate the wisdom of allowing market forces to determine the appropriate exchange rate levels. In our current experience, however, the fluctuations have been so wide and the signals by government influence a lot of speculation such that portfolio managers and dollar traders already dictate the levels that work to their advantage," he said.

He said policy measures, short of direct intervention, are needed to prevent the speculators from taking advantage of the situation "at the expense of the bigger legitimate economic contributors."

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. stressed, however, that the central bank was not biased for a strong peso.

"Our policy is a market-determined peso... Prior to this, there was continued depreciation, so how would you characterize that, a weak peso policy?" he said.

"As we have done time and again, what the BSP does is to try and smoothen the movements," he said.

He said the proposal to maintain an exchange rate band favoring the exporters was too "risky."

"The primary observation is that it will tend to produce distortions in the system..and who will shoulder the cost?" he said.

Tetangco said the central bank would stick to its mandate of providing monetary and price stability, as a low-inflation rate regime would also benefit exporters.

"We're also doing more in terms of liberalizing the foreign exchange system," he said.

Ortiz-Luis urged the government to undertake the following: revive a dollar-denominated bourse that will be practical and attractive to investors; settle more foreign debts ahead of maturity to create demand for dollars; liberalize gold bullion trading and create a gold bullion certificate market to stabilize the exchange rate; and the Magna Carta for SMEs and the Agri-Agra Laws which mandate lending to these priority sectors, by tightening the rules on alternative compliance.

Gasoline, kerosene prices cut by 50¢

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL FIRMS HAVE REDUCED gasoline and kerosene prices by 50 centavos a liter.

Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Chevron Philippines Inc., Seaoil Philippines Inc. and Eastern Petroleum Corp. all adjusted their prices at 7 p.m. yesterday.

Flying V implemented the same price adjustments on the same products at 12:01 a.m. today.

Seaoil president Glenn Yu said the price cut was due to the reduction in the prices of gasoline and kerosene in the world market, as the United States summer driving season comes to an end.

The regional benchmark Dubai crude fell to an August average of $67.38 a barrel from $69.49 a barrel in July.

World oil prices are also expected to go down some more with the change in the course of Hurricane Felix, which apparently bypassed US refineries in the Gulf of Mexico.

Premium unleaded gasoline prices fell to between P39.07 and P41.77 a liter, unleaded gasoline to between P38.05 and P41.09 a liter, to P40.30 a liter.

Survey indicates people agree on Erap's guilt, says prosecutor

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE STATE PROSECUTOR IN the P4-billion plunder case against detained former President Joseph Estrada yesterday said that if majority of Filipinos favor an amnesty for the ousted president, it only suggests that they agree to his culpability.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio was commenting on the latest survey results of the Social Weather Stations that showed 77 percent of Mega Manila residents were willing to forgive the former president.

"But as how we read it, these people are in favor of pardoning Estrada because they agree that he has a liability," Villa-Ignacio told the INQUIRER.

Estrada's son San Juan City Mayor Jose Victor "JV" Ejercito, however, said the results indicated that the majority believe in his father's innocence.

But the chief magistrate of the antigraft court trying Estrada for plunder yesterday said she was oblivious to the publicity generated by survey results sympathetic to the deposed leader.'

Prejudicial publicity

"We are aware there might be prejudicial publicity. This is a very high-profile case and it's very hard to control the media," Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro said.

De Castro said she has refrained from reading newspapers and has missed reading about the results of the recent SWS survey.

"I'm sorry to the say that I haven't read those news accounts," De Castro said during a budget hearing yesterday.

De Castro chairs the special division handling Estrada's case that includes associate justices Diosdado Peralta and Francisco Villaruz.

The Sandiganbayan is expected to render its decision on the case in the coming days.

Villa-Ignacio noted in jest that the 90-day deadline in rendering a decision as prescribed by the Constitution falls on Sept. 13—"Erap's favorite number."

The number 13 seemed to have figured prominently in Estrada's life. He was the Philippines' 13th president and was impeached by the House of Representatives on Nov. 13, 2001. He was denied to challenge the validity of President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration by the Supreme Court in a 13-0 vote.

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Hon. Jerril G. Santos – Chief of Protocol, Department of Foreign Affairs. He has a solid background in the field of protocol and has the distinction of having served five presidents of the Republic of the Philippines as protocol officer in various capacities, including having been Chief of Presidential Protocol in Malacañang. He is currently an Assistant Secretary at DFA and is among the youngest to have attained ambassadorial-level rank in the history of the DFA. He has also served on several foreign assignments including having been Minister and Consul General of the Philippine Embassy in Canada.

Assistant Secretary Santos has a bachelor's degree in Foreign Service from UP. He was granted a Fulbright scholarship and went on to obtain a master's degree from the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

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BusinessWorld Lawsuit Alternatives POWERBOOKS

RP now world's top labor exporter

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PHILIPPINES IS NOW THE WORLD'S top exporter of labor, according to Labor Secretary Arturo Brion.

Brion made the statement yesterday before the House committee on appropriations to justify his department's proposed P6.2 billion budget for 2008, an P800 million increase over their current P5.4 billion allocation.

"We are now the No. 1 labor-sending country simply because Filipinos are very desired everywhere," he told congressmen. "If we are not that productive, we will not be that desired."

Brion was responding to the query of Sorsogon Rep. Salvador Escudero III on whether Filipino workers were productive.

The secretary said the demand for overseas Filipino workers was so high that there were now "more jobs than what we can provide."

He cited the case of Saudi Arabia, which had a demand for 5,000 nurses. He said the Philippines came up short by 2,000.

Over all, he said the country was sending one million Filipino workers overseas every year or a current total of 7.9 million OFWs.

Under the budget proposal, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), stood to get the highest increase among all agencies attached to the DOLE.

The suggestion was to increase its current budget of P2.5 billion to P3.1 billion or a difference of P642 million.

The secretary assured congressmen that "our main policy is not marketing, but the protection" of OFWs.

Many of these OFWs were nurses seeking greener pastures outside of the Philippine health system.

From 2000 to 2003, the country lost 51,850 nurses to higher paying jobs abroad, according to the Health Alliance for Democracy, a nationwide network of doctors, nurses and other health professionals.

In 2005, the group noted that around 4,000 doctors were enrolled in nursing schools, ostensibly giving up what was considered a higher position in the general health system hierarchy.

Why the look on GMA's face?

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE PHOTOGRAPHS ON THE FRONT page of the INQUIRER the other day had President Arroyo displaying expressions that seemed to range from incredulity to shock, as her executive secretary, Eduardo Ermita, held up a compact disc (CD) and murmured a few private words to her at the start of a meeting on national security the other day.

So what was that all about? Another scandal?

In a talk with reporters, Ermita shook his head and said it was only an old documentary on power politics in the United States that he was pitching to the President.

Ermita said he was surprised that the series of photographs capturing that short conversation he had with the President at the start of the National Security Council Cabinet Group meeting in Malacañang last Tuesday was given so much meaning.

Ermita recalled to reporters what he told President Arroyo at that time: "*Alam ninyo ma'am kung may oras kayo, papahiramin ko sa inyo eto* (Ma'am, if you have time, I will lend you this tape)."

He said that the CD was actually adapted from a book written by Hendrick Smith that he read during the time of President Corazon Aquino, entitled "The People and the Power Game."

The CD he presented to Ms Arroyo was titled "The Elected, the Presidency and Congress in the United States."

Ermita said he found the book of Smith to be "interesting" and with the CD, "it was very relevant to our political environment."

As to why the President made those strange expressions, Ermita could only say that the INQUIRER photographer clicked her camera quickly.

Agri land deal with China still a plan, says DAR Usec

By TJ Burgonio

NOT A SQUARE FOOT OF FARMland has been given to Chinese investors, according to an agrarian reform official in the face of criticism over a plan to convert farms into agribusiness-type plantations to be offered to foreign investors.

Gerunio Madueño, the agrarian reform Undersecretary for support services, said the plan to turn farms into plantations producing hybrid rice or corn, would not involve the leasing of lands.

What it would entail are joint venture agreements between the farmers and the investors, he said.

"There's a misconception that land utilization entails land lease. That's not the case here," Madueño said in a phone interview.

Leaders of peasant groups Unorka-Pilipinas and Task Force Mapalad picketed the Department of Agrarian Reform offices last week, demanding Madueño's resignation for supposedly enlisting farmlands for agri-business ventures under an agreement with China without consulting them.

"They thought the investors would take over their lands, which would be a violation of agrarian reform," Madueño said.

Madueño explained that none of the different modes of joint venture agreement, like contract-growing, production sharing, and build-operate-transfer, entail the leasing of farmlands.

He said no farmland has been identified for agri-business anywhere in the country since the Philippine-China agri-fisheries agreement was signed in January 2006.

"We're still in the planning stage. We have not offered a square foot of farmland to the Chinese," he said, explaining that the memorandum of agreement was just a framework and that no specific agreements have been approved.

Hospitals call off 'holiday'

By Beverly T. Natividad

AFTER A MEETING WITH HEALTH SECretary Francisco Duque, private hospitals yesterday announced they would hold off a threatened "hospital holiday" to dramatize their objections to a new law that prohibits them from detaining patients who cannot pay their bills.

The Philippine Hospitals Association of the Philippines (PHAP) said it agreed to Duque's request to hold off the boycott and give the health department a chance to address their concerns.

PHAP spokesman Dr. Rustico Jimenez said they will first exhaust all available solutions to their problems with the new law.

"We are good citizens and we want to listen to all their [Department of Health] suggestions first. We want to give them some leeway just to see what they can do to address this," said Jimenez.

The new law (Republic Act No. 9439) provides that patients can be discharged upon signing of a promissory note covering their unpaid obligations.

Hospital owners said they want the government to tap the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) or the pork barrel (Priority Development Assistance Fund) of each congressmen, for the creation of a guarantee fund in the event that promissory notes are not paid by patients.

The group was planning to hold the boycott for about two days each month until 2008, unless the government repeals the law.

Jimenez said, they hope the Health department can address their objections and find a way to incorporate their proposals in the implementing rules and regulations of the new law. He said they did not promise to hold off for very long.

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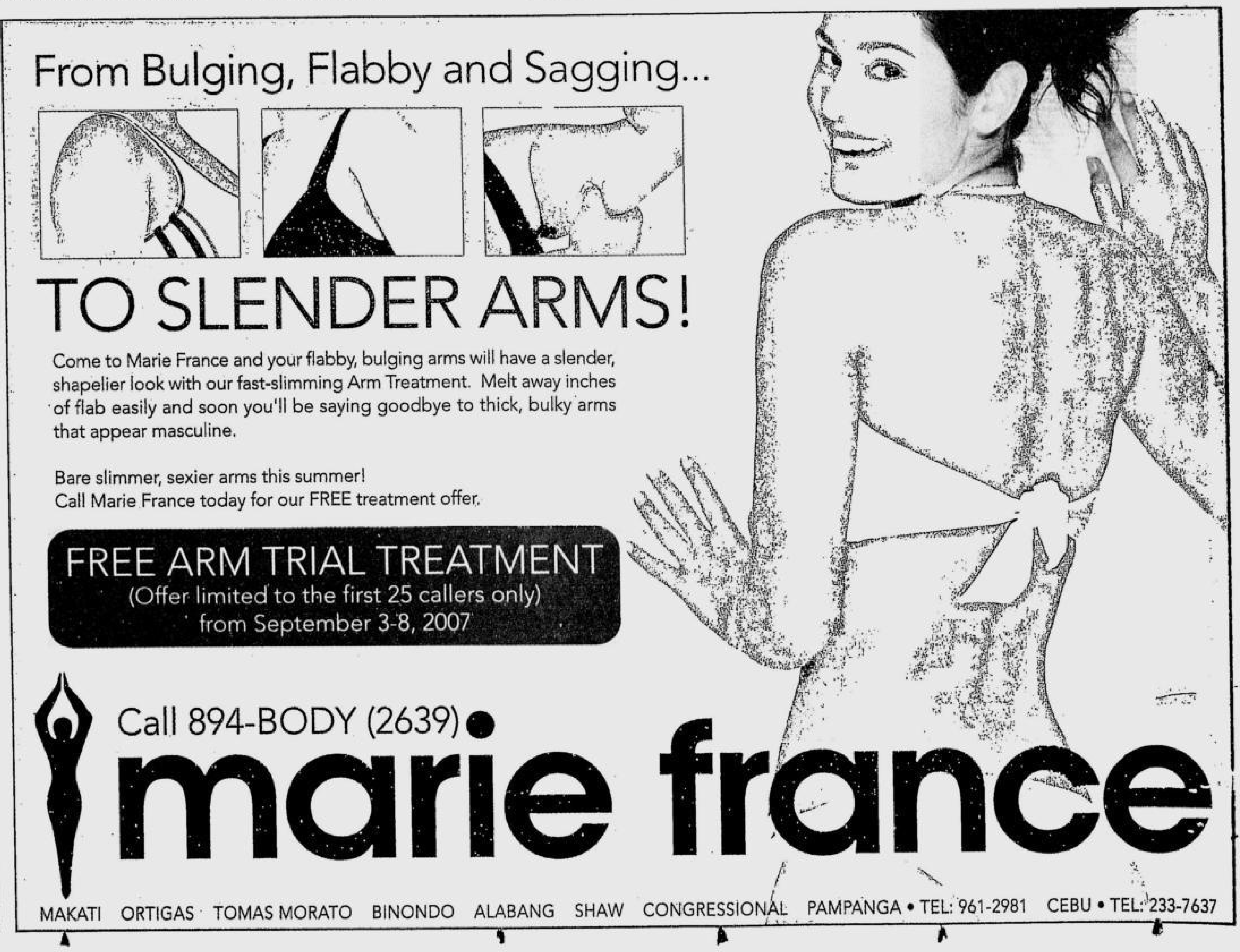

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Neri doesn't deny, confirm ₱200-M bribe offer

From page A1

project and Cyber Education Project [CEP] during the first quarter of 2007," said Neri, now the head of the Commission on Higher Education.

But Neri said Ms Arroyo did not choose the ZTE to implement the NBN project. That power was exercised by Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

Neri said the Neda board only approved the "policy" of setting up broadband and cyber-education projects.

Neri said if called to a congressional probe, he would be covered by Ms Arroyo's Executive Order No. 464 requiring executive department officials to get her permission before attending a legislative inquiry.

Neri told the INQUIRER that he did see Chinese officials in a "meeting arranged by embassy officials." But he could not recall when it took place.

"At least once. I forgot when. I met with them, with Chinese officials."

"*'Wag na muna* (Not now)," he said, when asked to disclose the issues discussed at the meeting.

"I clarified that this is the position of government at the time—no guarantee, no loan. It was shown in the Neda board minutes."

DOTC should answer

Asked why the deal with ZTE carried a sovereign guarantee for a loan instead of not paying even one yuan through a build-operate-transfer scheme, he said: "It's the DOTC (Department of Transportation and Communication) that should answer."

He said an "American ambassador" and losing bidders also complained to him but he told them to "go back to the DOTC," which should "address your concerns because we (Neda board) don't choose suppliers."

Shortly after the Philippine government and the ZTE signed the deal, US Ambassador Kristie Kenney had been quoted as deploring the "lack of transparency" in the deal.

The NBN contract was signed by Mendoza and Yu Yong, ZTE vice president, on April 21 in ceremonies witnessed by Ms Arroyo. Shortly after, the Philippine copy of the contract was stolen.

On the same day, Trade Secretary Peter Favila signed with Chinese authorities a $460-million deal to build a satellite-based backbone for the CEP on behalf of the Department of Education.

Both agreements were signed in Hainan, China.

Malacañang rejected calls for the cancellation of the $329-million contract with China's ZTE Corp. for the project.

"Definitely, there is no order to discontinue [the project] just because of the uproar," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said at his weekly news conference.

Leaders in both Houses of Congress have called for the cancellation of the NBN contract, claiming that it was attended with irregularities.

Malacañang is leaving it to the courts to decide whether there was any irregularity in the deal.

Ermita said the DOTC was asked to "justify itself" before the Supreme Court and the Office of the Ombudsman which are now looking into allegations of bribery in the brokering of the project.

Suplico has asked the Supreme Court to nullify the NBN.

An opposition congressman has filed a case against Mendoza and two assistant secretaries in the Office of the Ombudsman for allegedly entering into a grossly disadvantageous broadband deal with ZTE.

Speaker wants deal scrapped

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. yesterday joined Senate President Manuel Villar in calling for the scrapping of the ZTE contract.

De Venecia said he earlier maintained his silence because of the involvement of his son and namesake Jose III in the controversy as one of the losing bidders for the NBN project.

"Whether (the project) is superior or not is not for me to say because of *delicadeza* although in principle I am in favor that it be cancelled as pointed out by Senate President Villar in an earlier announcement," De Venecia said.

Villar on Tuesday called for the cancellation of the broadband deal because it entailed a loan and because many of its features have yet to be explained by members of the administration directly involved in the agreement.

The NBN project seeks to establish a seamless connection of landline, cellular and Internet services among all government agencies and offices.

A group of lawmakers in the House is preparing to file an impeachment case against Abalos for allegedly brokering the deal on behalf of ZTE and trying to bribe an executive of a rival firm to drop its bid for the project.

Abalos has denied any wrongdoing.

Satisfied with Mendoza

Ermita said there was no reason for the Palace to investigate allegations of bribery because the matter was already with the high court and the Ombudsman.

"The President is satisfied that the primary secretary (Mendoza) has informed her that these things are to be inquired into by the Ombudsman and the Supreme Court and she doesn't have to believe all the allegations coming out in mass media," the executive secretary said.

As it is now, the public discussions on the NBN deal are just being manipulated, according to Ermita.

"We must be able to pinpoint the responsibility if there are irregularities as alleged. So let the court determine that," he said.

Ms Arroyo, he also said, was "confident that the Cabinet officials handling this particular undertaking are up to the challenge of handling it."

"The President definitely has confidence in her Cabinet, especially Larry Mendoza," Ermita said.

In Senate Resolution No. 127, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. urged the blue ribbon committee and the committee on trade and commerce to look into the overprice of the NBN deal and Abalos' "highly suspicious and blatantly irregular, if not unlawful" lobbying in behalf of ZTE before, during and after the elections.

With reports from Norman Bordadora and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Tony Bergonia

Ex-lawmaker claims he has the goods on Abalos

By Norman Bordadora

A FORMER CONGRESSMAN yesterday claimed he had enough evidence to file an airtight impeachment complaint against Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. in connection with his alleged role in the $329-million national broadband network (NBN) deal.

Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico said he gathered evidence that Abalos had tried to bribe other bidders to back out of the NBN project.

An unnamed businessman recently told the INQUIRER that he witnessed Abalos offer Amsterdam Holdings Inc. executive Jose de Venecia III $10 million for his firm to refrain from any further participation in the bidding for the project.

"My volunteer lawyers are preparing the impeachment complaints ... They told me we have a case," Suplico told reporters at a news forum yesterday.

"There is culpable violation of the Constitution, bribery, graft and corruption and betrayal of public trust," he said of the grounds for impeaching Abalos.

Suplico said his evidence started with Abalos' repeated admission that he had met with ZTE executives several times in the country and in Shenzhen, China.

He added that Abalos also admitted to being at the meetings among ZTE officials, Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza and Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

"These are badges of participation. Have you ever wondered what he did in China during the election period?" Suplico said.

Lozano complaint

Suplico distanced himself from the impeachment complaint that lawyer Oliver Lozano would file against Abalos.

"This is separate from the complaint (of the) loose cannon. This is not a *hao hsiao* (a local journalist's colloquial for fake) complaint," he added.

Minority Leader Ronaldo Zamora said the opposition in the House would closely look at the pieces of evidence that Suplico would present.

ZTE defends deal

GIVING ITS SIDE, ZTE POSED the question: "If our proposal is unfavorable to the Philippines, I wonder how you would describe our competitors?"

In a statement, Howard Xue, ZTE global marketing director, posed the question amid allegations that the ZTE pressured the Philippine government into agreeing into an unfavorable NBN deal.

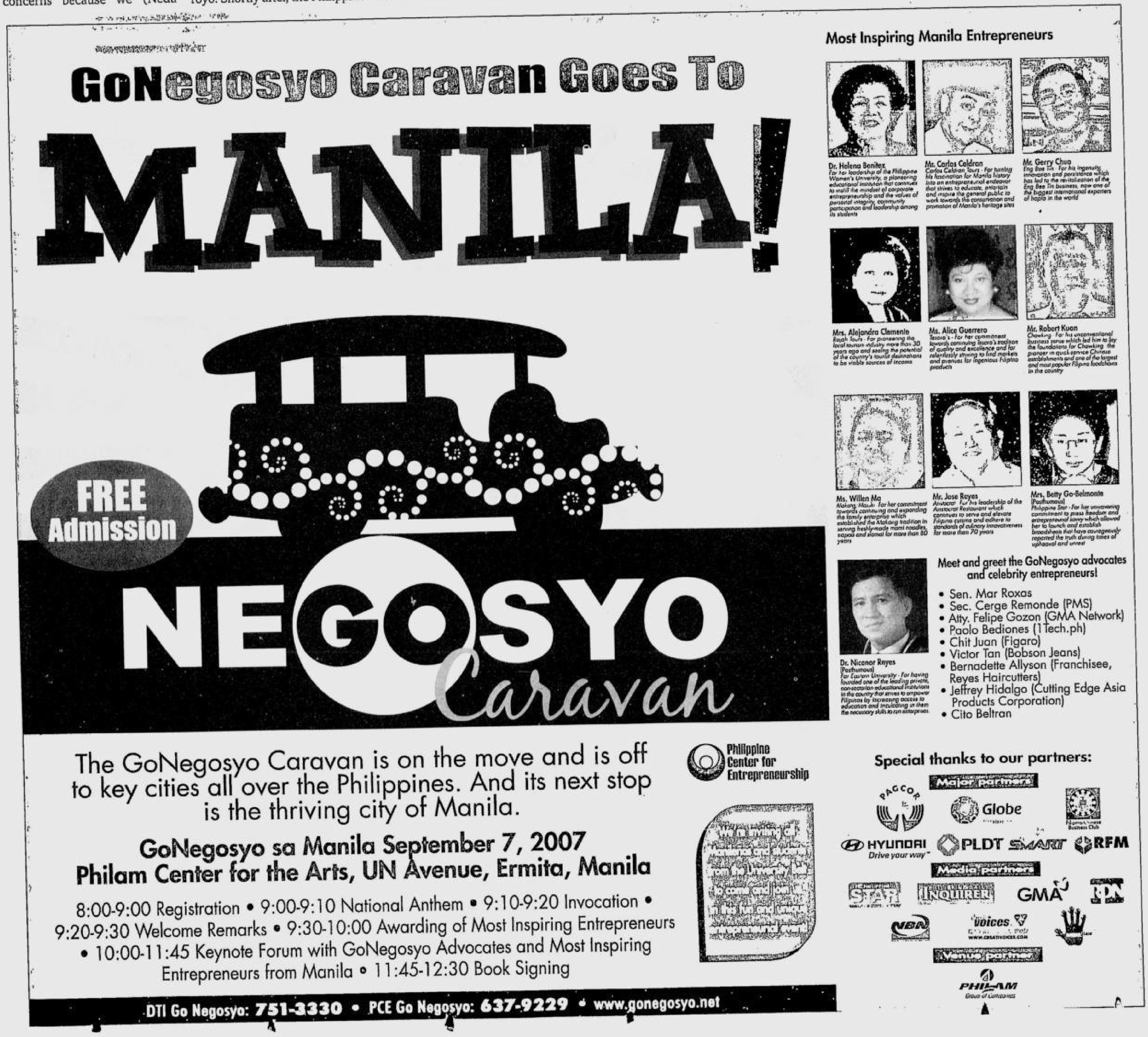
"The problem is that people see 'Proposal One's amount is $330 million' while 'Proposal Two's amount is $240 million,' and automatically assume that the second is less. But there is such a thing as clever presentation to hide overall costs, and the use of propaganda to condition the minds of the public," Xue said.

Under ZTE's proposal, the government will get a $330 million loan from the Chinese government at an interest rate of 3 percent per annum. The loan has a five-year grace period, and is payable in 15 years.

On the other hand, Amsterdam Holdings Inc. will take out a $240-million loan at commercial rates with around 10 years to pay.

AHI will also require the Philippine government to issue a performance undertaking, Xue said.

AHI's proposal would come out at least $60 million more expensive than ZTE's, based on interest payments, he said.



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Mrs. Betty Go-Belmonte
(Posthumous)
Philippine Star - For her unwavering commitment to press freedom and entrepreneurial savvy which allowed her to launch and establish broadsheets that have courageously reported the truth during times of upheaval and unrest

Dr. Nicanor Reyes
(Posthumous)
Far Eastern University - For having founded one of the leading private, non-sectarian educational institutions in the country that strives to empower Filipinos by increasing access to education and inculcating in them the necessary skills to run enterprises.

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CA upholds murder raps vs Leviste

From page A1

Velasco that there was probable cause to charge Leviste with murder, and also ruled that there was basis for the reinvestigation as well as Makati Judge Elmo Alameda's admission of the amended information.

It likewise dismissed the former governor's claim that the reinvestigation was not impartial in light of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's earlier statement that murder, and not homicide, should have been the charge filed.

Leviste is accused of shooting dead his longtime aide Rafael de las Alas on Jan. 12, 2007, in his office at the LPL Tower in Makati.

He was initially charged with homicide but Alameda granted the request of the De las Alas family for a reinvestigation, which was conducted by Velasco.

Leviste has since been arraigned for murder but was later released on bail.

The pretrial is scheduled on Sept. 26.

Bail unaffected

Velasco said in a phone interview that with the appellate court's decision, Leviste's prosecution for murder would continue.

He said the decision would not affect the grant of bail to Leviste because the court had ruled only on the issue of the reinvestigation of the case and the subsequent finding of probable cause for murder.

"The bail matter is at the discretion of the hearing court. Our motion for reconsideration [questioning the grant of bail] was already denied," Velasco said.

In another phone interview, Leviste's lawyer Manuel Singson expressed disappointment with the court's decision but said "this does not change the picture."

"We're disappointed but this does not affect our case in any way. Whether the charge is murder or homicide does not matter because we've always treated the case as murder," he said.

Singson said he did not know whether the prosecution intended to present evidence other than what was presented during the bail hearing.

"I doubt if they have more evidence. At the bail hearing, they failed to present strong evidence that the case was murder, and not homicide," he said.

Probable cause, not guilt

The appellate court said there was no reason to reverse Velasco's finding, which Leviste had described as baseless.

It pointed out that a reinvestigation was not a trial of the case on the merits and was only intended to determine probable cause, and not the guilt of the accused.

"In this case, however, the resolution dated Feb. 2, 2007, issued by [Velasco] after the reinvestigation appears to have been duly supported by probable cause," it said.

It added that the three-day duration of the reinvestigation and the subsequent issuance of an arrest warrant and the setting of Leviste's arraignment were insufficient reasons to reverse the findings.

The court also said Gonzalez's statement that Leviste should have been charged with murder—made when the justice secretary lectured the acting city prosecutor of Makati—did not merit the nullification of the reinvestigation.

It said that Gonzalez's utterances did not show a prejudgment of the case, and that it was within his power to control and supervise prosecutors.

"While good sense dictates that [Secretary Gonzalez] should have been more circumspect in giving statements before the media with respect to the subject reinvestigation, his statements alone are not indicative of a prejudgment, or a determination to file the amended information for murder even in the absence of probable cause," it said.

No abuse of discretion

There was no evidence either that Alameda had abused his discretion in allowing the reinvestigation, the appellate court said.

It found no merit in Leviste's argument that it was only he who could seek a preliminary investigation, saying the prosecutor could ask for a reinvestigation of a case that had been filed in court. In this case, Velasco had agreed to the motion for reinvestigation.

"Hence, private complainants, with the conformity of respondent prosecutor, are legally authorized to move for the reexamination of the evidence and for reinvestigation of petitioner's case, should they choose to avail [themselves] of the said remedy, instead of appealing to the Secretary of Justice," it said.

The court also said Alameda did not have to conduct a hearing before issuing an arrest warrant. It said the judge's determination of probable cause for the issuance of a warrant was based not only on the prosecutor's resolution but also on other documentary evidence.

Not new information

The court further said the amended information for murder could still be admitted.

"An amended information is not a new information because it does not charge another offense different or distinct from that charged in the original one ... It is only after petitioner's arraignment that no substantial amendment of the information may be permitted," it said. *With a report from DJ Yap*

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Lomibao named to Berroya's job at LTO

From page A1

Arturo Lomibao.

Ms Arroyo last week named Devanadera as officer in charge of the DOJ in a concurrent capacity after Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez took a medical leave.

Compared to a "caretaker role" as officer in charge at the DOJ, which is only ministerial, an acting justice secretary enjoys all the powers and prerogatives of the office.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters Ms Arroyo made the decision "because there are questions (about a caretaker role), considering so many important cases" were pending with the DOJ.

As officer in charge, Devanadera cannot sign appointments or make decisions, "so she should be given power and authority to sign important" documents, said Ermita.

LOMIBAO: Made way for JDV

BERROYA: DOTC Asec

DEVANADERA: Acting DOTC chief

Devanadera, in turn, designated lawyer Amparo Tang as officer in charge at the Solicitor General's Office.

A native of Pangasinan, Lomibao agreed during the last May elections to stand down in the congressional fight for the province's fourth district, against Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Ms Arroyo also made several other appointments—Francisco Benedicto as undersecretary of foreign affairs, Felecito Masagnay as commissioner of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, and Oscar Inosentes as presidential assistant for judicial affairs with the rank of undersecretary.

Ms Arroyo is scheduled to leave for Australia today to attend a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic (Apec) forum.

On Monday, Ms Arroyo designated Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno as presidential adviser on political affairs, in a concurrent capacity.

Musical chairs

Ms Arroyo had previously assigned National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales to temporarily oversee the political affairs office after Secretary Gabriel Claudio resigned for health reasons.

Gonzales was directed to concentrate on the case lodged in the Netherlands against Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Ma. Sison, and on possible peace deals with armed rebels.

Ms Arroyo said that Puno, who is also president (on leave) of her Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) party, would serve "indefinitely" in the dual role of head of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the political affairs office.

Ermita said he understood that Puno would be officer in charge at the office vacated by Claudio.

A stalwart of the ruling party Lakas-CMD, Claudio underwent delicate spiral surgery on Aug. 8. He resigned from the Cabinet on Aug. 24.

Other members of Ms Arroyo's official family who were reshuffled recently were Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, who was "temporarily" moved to the Commission on Higher Education; Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, who took over the energy department; and acting Defense Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, who was returned to his old post at the Department of Public Works and Highways.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, September 6, 2007
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Col 1:9-14
Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

One day, as Jesus stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, with a crowd gathered around him listening to the word of God, he caught sight of two boats left at the water's edge by the fishermen now washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to pull out a little from the shore. There he sat and continued to teach the crowd.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon replied, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing. But if you say so, I will lower the nets." This they did and caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. They signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats almost to the point of sinking.

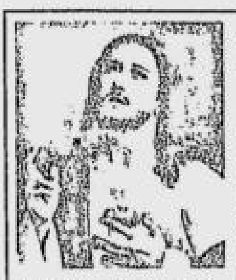
Upon seeing this, Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees, saying, "Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and his companions were amazed at the catch they had made and so were Simon's partners, James and John, Zebedee's sons.

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. You will catch people from now on." So they brought their boats to land and followed him, leaving everything.

Commentary

We are meeting the churches of Paul as he travels. We see his pastoral concerns with each of them, and how they are developing and staying faithful to the teaching they have been given. There always are prayers for knowledge and wisdom (gifts of the Spirit) and that we may live a live worthy of our baptisms (calling).

Jesus preaches this Word and life and then gets into Peter's boat and commands them to set out into the deep—they obey and catch so many fish they almost sink the boats. Peter gets a sense of who this man Jesus might be and asks mercy and forgiveness. We must always go back to this-that we are meant to go out into the deep with our God, ask mercy, be not afraid, leave all, and follow Jesus into the depths of God. Time for taking a risk?



IMPORTANT

To the Devotees of the SACRED HEART OF JESUS. Tomorrow, Septermber 07, 2007 is the FIRST FRIDAY of the month. **Novenas** and **Statutes** to the SACRED HEART OF JESUS and to ST. ANTHONY are given away FREE for Chapels, Hospitals, Schools, etc. Please get them from JASMINE at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City, MM or at Builders Centre Bldg. 170 Salcedo St. Legaspi Village Makati City, MM.

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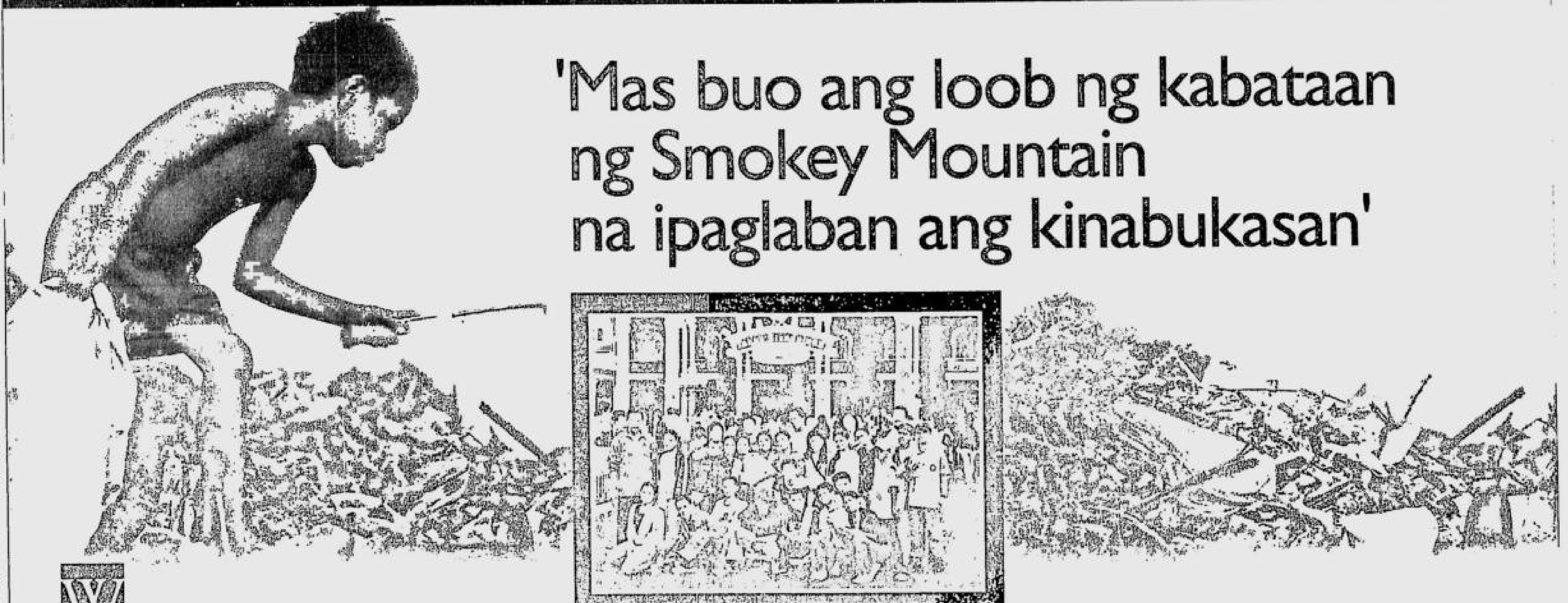
'Salamat sa Desisyon ng Korte Suprema 13-0'

'Mas buo ang loob ng kabataan ng Smokey Mountain na ipaglaban ang kinabukasan'



Where escape is a natural recourse, the young leaders of Smokey Mountain opt to remain and work to see more improvements in their community.

Many of them have seen many key cities of the world. They have performed as a cultural dance group to raise funds for scholarships. Asked about their dreams, they hardly speak of leaving the country for better lives. They want to stay and see more progress at Smokey Mountain.

They want their community to be recognized as a Philippine showcase of transformation – from a community of dwellers who made a living out of a huge garbage dumpsite to one of dignified living, through self-help and perseverance. They want to be known for caring for people and the environment.

They see the recent **Supreme Court** decision, which upheld the validity of the **Smokey Mountain Reclamation and Development Project** that provided them permanent homes, as a propeller of dreams, a "bonus" for their efforts.

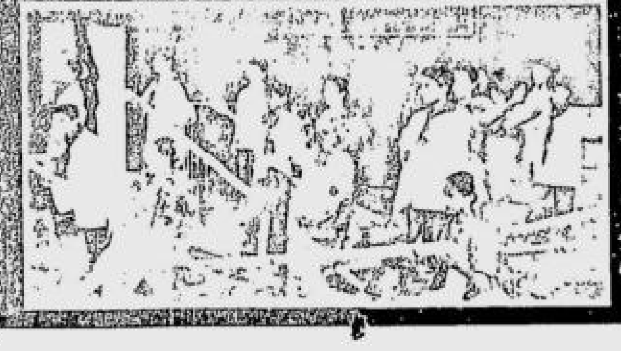
"Para sa akin, bonus na ang Supreme Court decision. Nakuha na namin ang tunay na halaga ng magkaroon ng sariling bahay, ng malinis na paligid (I regard the SC decision as a bonus. We have long realized the benefits of having our own homes and clean surroundings) ," states Andrew Macalalad, 28, Parish Youth Coordinator.

It has been nine years, starting from early 1999, since permanent homes in 21 medium-rise residential buildings were turned over to 2,520 families who were beneficiaries of the project undertaken by the **National Housing Authority** and **R-II Builders Inc.**

Andrew, who brought the Smokey Mountain stench with him to grade school, has been to Australia, US, Hong Kong and Japan with the cultural dance group and was 2006 representative to the APEC Youth Summit in Vietnam. As one of the first church scholars, he graduated with a degree in customs administration from the Philippine Maritime Institute. But he is not about to let go of community work. He still wants to see more youth volunteers give of their own selves for their community.

"Magtuloy-tuloy sana ang tulong para sa amin. Pero sana'y mas marami sa amin ang mamulat na kami talaga ang tutulong sa sarili namin. Pagsikapan ang edukasyon - pag may education, may unity sa aming lugar. Pag may unity, may progress ang community.

(I hope that help continues to flow in and that more of our youth realize that it is through their own efforts that their lives would improve) ," states Shirley Cotoner, 18. She adds she will continue to be guided by the discipline developed in her by the late National Artist for Dance Ramon Obusan who served as community volunteer and artist trainor for the dance group Mga Anak ni Inang Daigdig. (www.presmokey-mt.org)



Salamat sa Korte Suprema!

SC upholds detention of Army major in Feb '06 coup try

ARMY MAJ. JASON AQUINO will remain in detention after the Supreme Court dismissed the habeas corpus petition of his wife Maria Fe and ruled that his detention by the military was valid.

The high court upheld a Court of Appeals decision dismissing Maria Fe's petition for the release of her husband, who is among several officers charged with involvement in the February 2006 coup attempt.

Aquino is charged with attempting to begin a mutiny in violation of Article 67, and with conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman in violation of Article 96 of the Articles of War.

According to the high court, Aquino's detention was proper as he is governed by military law, and the Articles of War allow military officials to detain their personnel.

In its Aug. 31 decision released yesterday, the high court said Article 70 of the Articles of War empowers the commanding officer to place, "in confinement or in arrest, any person subject to military law charged with a crime or with a serious offense under the Articles of War."

"As a general rule, the writ of habeas corpus will not issue where the person alleged to be restrained of his liberty is in the custody of an officer under a process issued by the court which has jurisdiction to do so," it said.

The high court also rejected Maria Fe's argument that Aquino was not restricted to barracks or quarters as required by the Article 70 of the Articles of War, but was instead placed in solitary confinement in a maximum security detention cell. She also said she was banned from visiting her husband, and described his treatment as extreme punishment. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Port of Manila posts record

THE PORT OF Manila has posted a record collection of P7.37 billion in August, the second consecutive month that District Collector Horacio P. Suansing has exceeded his target.

Suansing said the August collection was 13 percent—about P770 million—more than the Port of Manila's target last month.

"We will continue to plug all revenue leaks and increase the port's collection," he said in a press statement.

Commissioner Napoleon Morales told reporters on Monday that the Bureau of Customs, the government's second-biggest tax collector, hit its target of P20.8 billion in August.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue, which accounts for two-thirds of the government's tax take, also likely met its collection goal of P82 billion for August based on initial data.

The performance of the two agencies in the previous two months indicates that state revenues are back on track after a weak first half.

The government exceeded its first-half budget deficit target by about a third after it failed to tackle widespread evasion. It is relying on improved collections and asset sales to meet its full-year shortfall goal of P63 billion.

With a report by Reuters

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GMA set to have 20-minute meeting with Bush tomorrow

From page A1

meeting, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo will have a meeting with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Foreign Undersecretary Edsel Custodio said the agenda for the Bush-Arroyo meeting would be up to the two leaders.

"Leaders, when they meet, there is no agenda. You could probably guess the issues," Custodio said in a media briefing. But he said the issues of terrorism and transparency were likely to crop up.

Business meetings

On Saturday, Ms Arroyo will discuss with Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi the resumption of the government's peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which Kuala Lumpur hosts.

Ms Arroyo will also meet with the Filipino community and CEOs of leading American companies.

Tomorrow, Ms Arroyo will see Dr. Stan Shih, group chair of IDSOFTVCAPITAL and cofounder of the Acer Group; Chip Goodyear, CEO of BHP Biliton; and Andronico Luksik, a Chilean mining executive.

She will have a working dinner with the president and CEO of the US Chamber of Commerce and the US Apec Business Council.

Spreading the good news

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters in Manila that Ms Arroyo was looking forward to talk with Apec leaders "on how to promote economic stability, ensure peace and security, regional prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region while dealing with the global challenge of climate change."

Bunye said Ms Arroyo would discuss the "good news" about the country's economy and its "unwavering fight against terror" during the Apec summit.

"The President will be an active participant in discussions especially on climate change, given its impact on our country's weather patterns and effects on the agricultural sector," he said.

In her talks with Bush, Ms Arroyo is likely to discuss the country's new antiterror law, according to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita. He said that the United States was actively supporting the Philippines' efforts to counter terrorism.

Jose Ma. Sison

Ermita also said the two leaders were likely to talk about US support for the Philippine military, including provision of equipment and training.

Asked whether the recent arrest of communist leader Jose Ma. Sison in the Netherlands would be raised, Ermita said it was possible considering that US Ambassador Kristie Kenney was quoted recently as saying that the United States would help out if asked by the Netherlands in its case against Sison.

At the end of their two-day retreat, participants will issue the Apec Economic Leaders Declaration which will contain the strategic direction for Apec next year.

Apec groups Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Hong Kong-China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States and Vietnam. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

Asia-Pacific nations to strengthen food, product safety standards

ASIA-PACIFIC NATIONS ARE trying to map out a more robust approach to strengthening the region's food and product safety standards as ministers from the 21-member bloc opened their annual meeting yesterday.

The measure is among a number of initiatives outlined in a draft declaration prepared for the meeting of trade and foreign ministers from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum ahead of their leaders' summit at the weekend.

"We agreed on the need to develop a more robust approach to strengthening food and consumer product safety standards and practices in the region, using scientific risk-based approaches, and without necessarily compromising trade," the draft declaration says.

The ministers called for greater confidence in food safety standards.

"We obviously take very seriously this whole issue of food safety," Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer told reporters. "There needs to be greater confidence in standards.

"I think there's a consensus about that."

Apec member China has been battling a torrent of warnings and recalls abroad that have shaken the confidence of international markets in the "made in China" label on products ranging from toothpaste and toys to food and tires.

Toymaker Mattel Inc. on Tuesday announced a third recall of Chinese-made toys, saying it would take back more than 800,000 units globally with "impermissible" levels of lead. *(Story in World, Page A20.)*

The food and product safety measure is among a number of initiatives Apec is undertaking to enhance security in the region, including potential threats from terrorism, drugs and contaminated products, pandemics and the consequences of natural disasters. *Reuters*

Protesters Down Under to show Bush bottom line

From page A1

nomic Cooperation (Apec) summit.

Police have said they expect violence during a series of protests against the Apec summit which will gather together 21 leaders from around the world.

"There's this heaviness about the protests," Saunders said yesterday.

'Bums not bombs'

"It's hoped to make the point that protests don't have to be these terribly heavy serious things."

The "Bums Not Bombs" group will particularly target Bush, whose unpopular war in Iraq has been strongly backed by Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

The visits by the world leaders, including Bush's five-day stay at a luxurious US$3,500 per night harborside hotel, have resulted in road blocks, changes to public transport, and other disruptions in Australia's biggest city.

The protest will take place in Sydney's Hyde Park, close to where the leaders will be meeting.

'21 Bum Salute'

In a leaflet to possible supporters, the group calls for 4,000 cheeks—er, 2,000 people—to "tell Bush what we really think about his visit."

Saunders said numbers for the protest were not yet certain but he had a core group to perform a "21 Bum Salute" to represent each of the countries in the grouping.

Bush apologizes

"I think there's certain to be hundreds of people," said Saunders, who previously attracted media attention when he and another man painted "No War" on the Sydney Opera House in huge, bright red letters on the eve of the US invasion of Iraq in 2003.

The group said it needed 4,000 cheeks to break the previous world record moon. "This is one Apec protest we can all enjoy," it said.

Bush himself seemed unworried about any of the protests, but he apologized for the tight security net that has snarled traffic.

"To the extent that I've caused this, I apologize," Bush said at the press conference with Howard yesterday. "I apologize to the Australian people if I've caused this."

'What a pain'

His doleful words came after an Australian reporter welcomed him to Sydney and emphasized that "it doesn't always look like this, with steel fences, and concrete barricades, and armed guards on the street."

"I hope you feel safe," Bush broke in. "You feel inconvenienced, obviously."

Amid the largest security operation in Australian history, Bush said that the last thing he wanted was to have his hosts conclude "what a pain it is to have the American president" as a result.

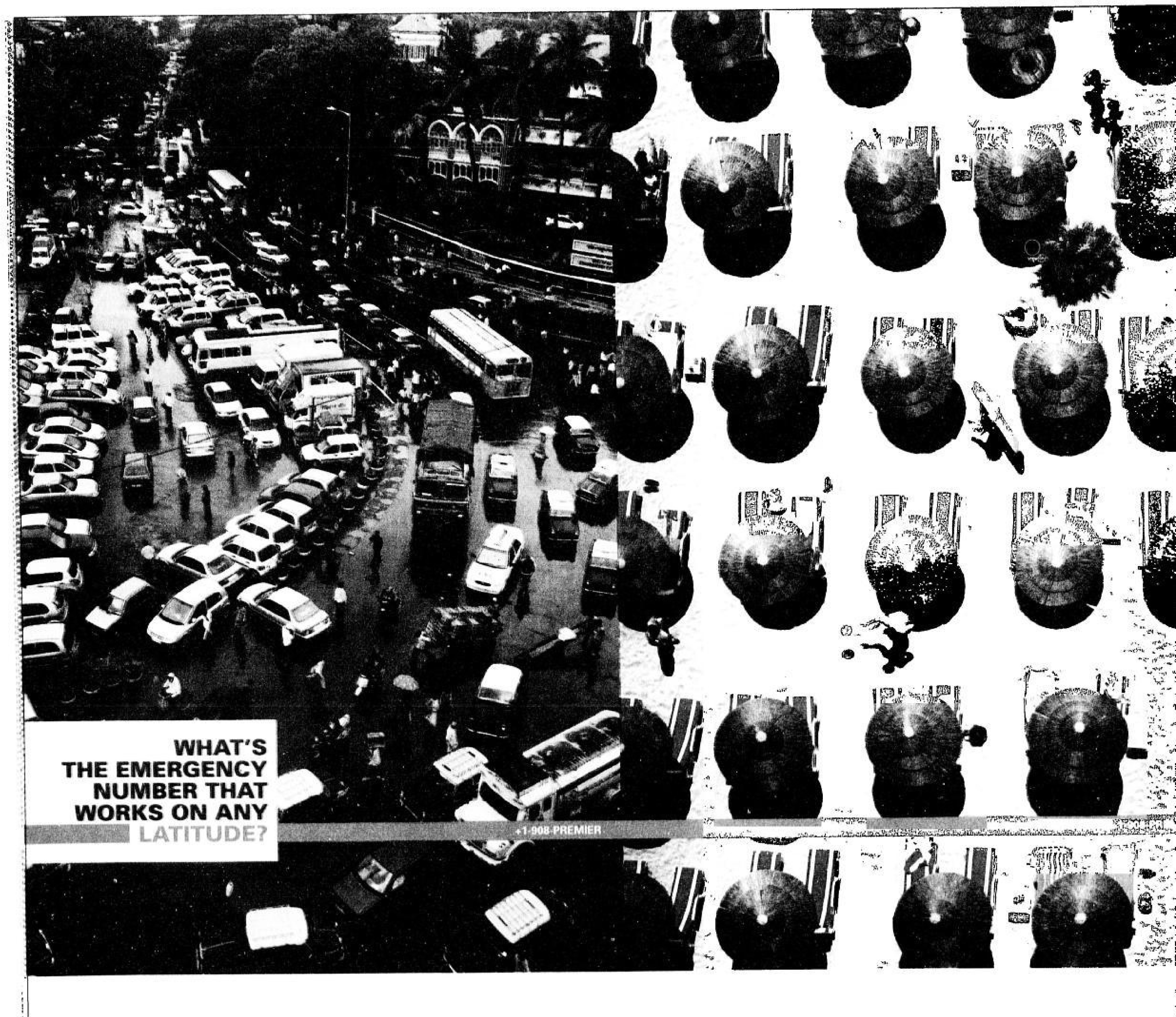
Feeling guilty

"Unfortunately, however, this is what the authorities thought was necessary to protect people. And you live in a free society. People feel like they want to protest—fine, they can. And unfortunately, evidently, some people may want to try to be violent in their protests," he added.

When the reporter said he was not blaming Bush personally, the US leader replied: "I guess I must be feeling guilty, you know what I'm saying?"—drawing laughter from the audience.

Around 3,500 police, backed by 1,500 counterterrorism and special forces soldiers, are enforcing a city center exclusion zone bordered by a forbidding fence in a security crackdown criticized as excessive by civil libertarians.

The 2.8-meter-high steel and concrete wall stretches some 5.5 kilometers through the city and around iconic tourist attractions such as the Sydney Opera House. *AFP*



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Joma not covered by amnesty, says Esperon

From page A1

ered," Esperon said.

Asked if Sison's alleged crimes in the Philippines would be covered, Esperon quipped: "I think that's something for the legal minds to study. Probably yes, but he is now facing charges in Netherlands. So our amnesty will not cover any laws of other lands."

US assistance

Sison, 68, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, was arrested by Dutch police on Aug. 28 and ordered detained by a judge in The Hague.

A statement by Wim de Bruin, spokesperson of the Dutch national prosecutor's office, said Sison was suspected of giving orders, from the Netherlands, to murder former communist associates Romulo Kintanar and Arturo Tabara.

The CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army, have been listed as terrorist organizations both by the European Union and the United States.

US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney has said that Washington is willing to help the Dutch government prosecute Sison if the latter would seek US help.

AFP backs amnesty

At the Malaysian reception, Esperon said he expected more legal questions to crop up on the qualifications of applicants for amnesty once the proclamation was released and submitted to Congress for concurrence.

Esperon said the AFP fully supported the amnesty proclamation as long as the rebels would return to the mainstream. He said the AFP was part of the discussions when the amnesty proposal was being considered.

Legal loopholes

"It's OK with us if they come to the mainstream, except of course for certain crimes like rape, and crimes not in connection with political beliefs. Otherwise, we will go for that," he stressed.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos, who also attended the Malaysian affair, said he, too, was for giving amnesty to rebels except for crimes committed not in furtherance of political beliefs.

Ramos urged Malacañang to carefully study the parameters of the amnesty program to avoid legal loopholes.

The National Security Council the other day approved the grant of amnesty to communist rebels willing to lay down their arms, in a move it hoped would hasten the conclusion of the stalled peace negotiations with the communist National Democratic Front.

The amnesty could also cover party-list representatives charged with rebellion for their alleged involvement in a conspiracy to overthrow the government in February 2006, Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said.

Administration ploy

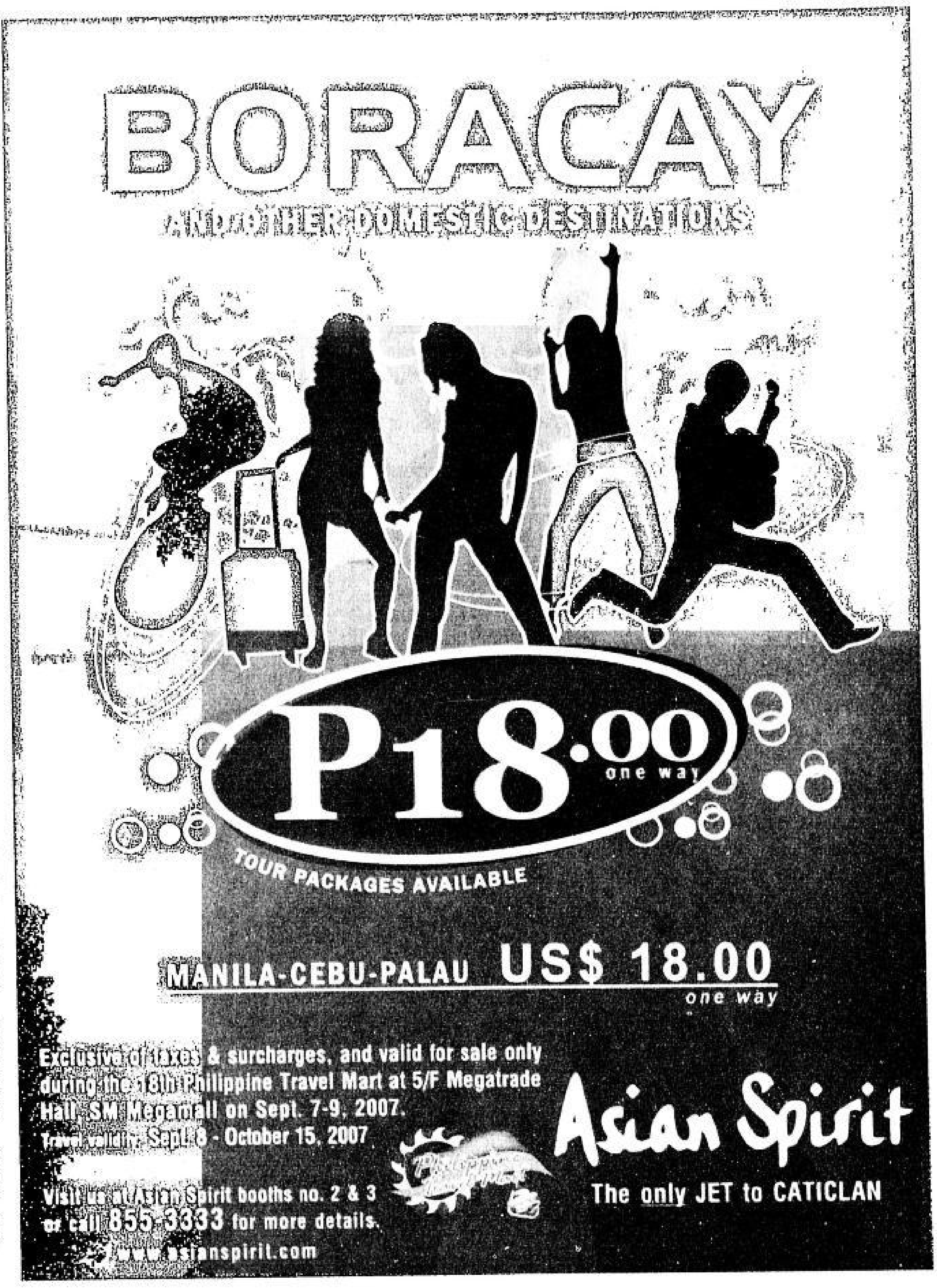
Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo described the amnesty offer as "malicious… (and) consistent with the Red-baiting tactics of Malacañang against progressives."

Ocampo reminded Gonzales and Dureza that the Makati Regional Trial Court had already dismissed the "Palace-fabricated" rebellion cases against him and 50 other coaccused.

"The trumped-up rebellion case against us has long been dismissed by the Supreme Court," said Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza.

Ocampo said amnesty "is a standard counterinsurgency ploy in light of the government's declared goal to finish (off) by 2010 the Left insurgency (by) strategically defeating the New People's Army."

"(For) amnesty to be meaningful, (it) must form part of a comprehensive peace agreement and not a unilateral act of government in an ongoing armed conflict," he said. *With a report from Christian V. Esguerra*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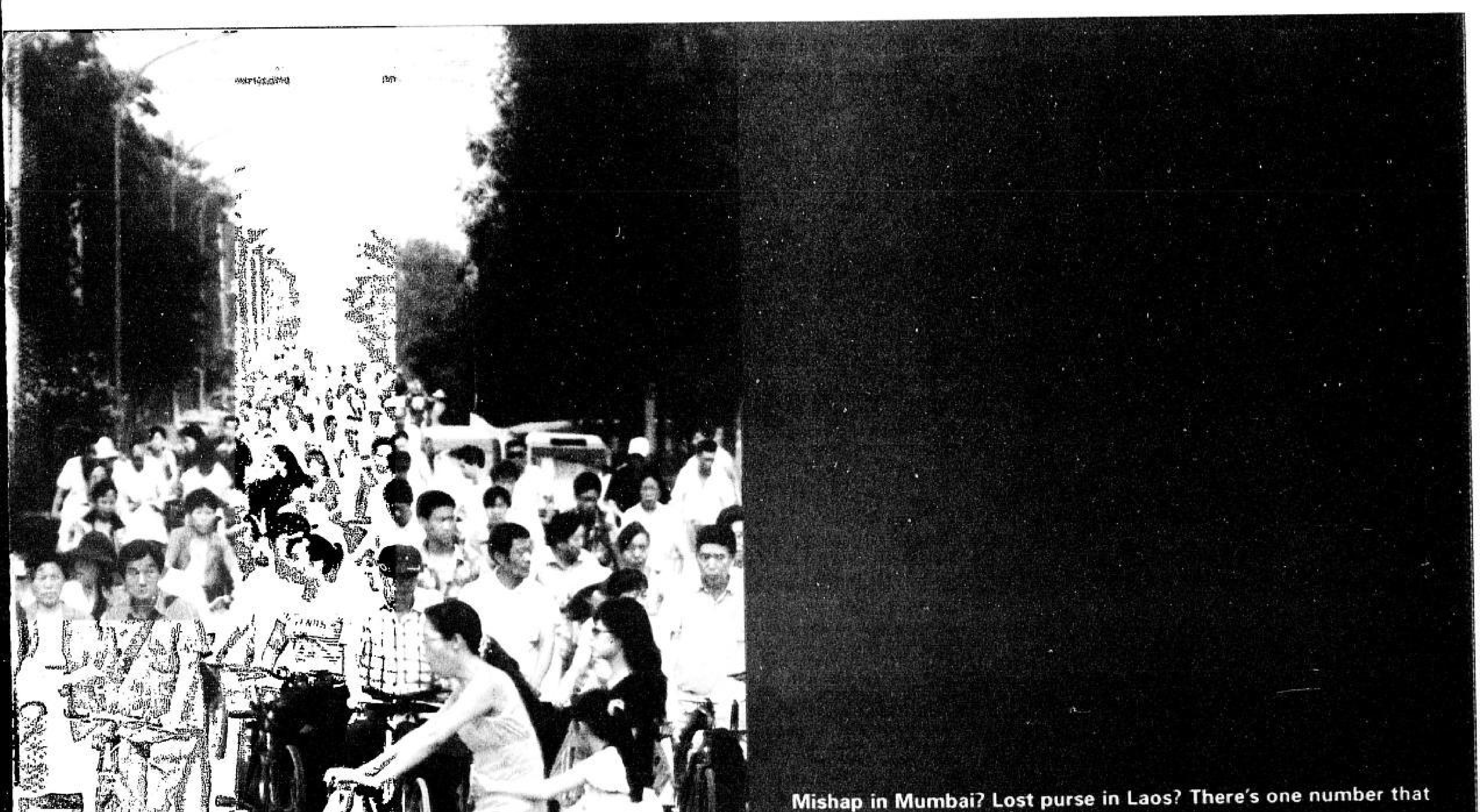
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EDITORIAL

THE POLICE HAVE CHANGED TACK ON THE JONAS Burgos mystery, and unfortunately for the missing activist and all those who hope to see his abductors brought to justice, the police have moved in the direction first tracked by the military. Now the police see communist rebels, and only communist rebels, as responsible for the crime.

We have serious reservations about the new witnesses presented by the Armed Forces of the Philippines, however. Many of these concern the implausibility of the military's claims, but the most significant doubts arise from what went **before** these witnesses were presented.

Military sources that journalists have relied on for years have sworn that a unit of either the Intelligence Service of the AFP or of the 56th Infantry Battalion based in Bulacan were involved in the abduction. A state prosecutor has asserted that six soldiers were behind the disappearance, a claim that earned him the justice secretary's displeasure. And ever since Burgos was forcibly seized in a mall last April, the leadership of the AFP has acted in a less-than-forthright, suspicion-inducing manner: stonewalling, finding excuses not to appear before the courts, refusing to turn over the results of internal investigations.

For these and other reasons, we find the military's most recent version of events suspect. Unfortunately, the police now share that interpretation. And they have brought to it their own worst practices.

Let us, using the most recent statements of Senior Supt. Joel Coronel of the Criminal Investigation Detection Group, consider only two of these fatal flaws.

First, an almost total dependence on eyewitness testimony.

Coronel is well within his rights to judge the testimony of Emerito Lipio, a member of the New People's Army, as providing the most "logical and coherent" picture of the Burgos abduction. That is his lookout. But his complete reliance on Lipio's belated testimony illustrates the weakness of many, if not most, of the cases our police officers investigate.

They are, most of them, based on the say-so of someone or other. For that very reason, many of them do not prosper in court—the testimonies are eminently recantable.

To be sure, in the Burgos disappearance, Coronel speaks of a pattern he sees in the testimony of other witnesses. "[Lipio's] statements are consistent with what other witnesses have told us before."

But **his** case, as he makes it, depends entirely on these witnesses. He excludes such evidence as the license plates of the Toyota Revo used in abducting Burgos from the mall, which have been traced back to the impounding area inside the headquarters of the 56 IB in Norzagaray, Bulacan. (Why? They, too, were pointed out by eyewitnesses.)

This brings us to the second worst practice. Coronel's statements remind us, yet again, that the police sometimes have the habit of disregarding the evidence that is right before their eyes.

Coronel, for example, said he found the alleged connection between the controversial license plates and military involvement in the Burgos abduction "really puzzling."

Now **that's** a puzzlement. By any reasonable standard, the fact—and it's a fact—that the plates on an abductor's vehicle were traced back to a battalion HQ should be considered to mean that a prima facie case does exist to investigate the possible involvement of battalion officers or men in the abduction.

Unfortunately, it would take enormous self-confidence and political will on the part of the police to say that. Thus, the cop-out: Police officers who now choose to give credence only to those witnesses whose testimony favors the military.

Checkmate?

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE LATEST INTELLIGENCE REPORT ABOUT IRAQ—A CONvincingly cold-eyed assessment—shows that the United States has almost no moves left to make in Iraq.

If the recent "surge" of additional combat brigades is showing signs of success, it's yet another indictment of the decision to invade Iraq without enough troops to effectively control the country.

The recent glimmer of good news from the fighting is hardly a promise of success. America cannot succeed unilaterally in Iraq; it can only give Iraqis enough breathing room to succeed themselves. Security may buy time, but the ultimate solution must be political.

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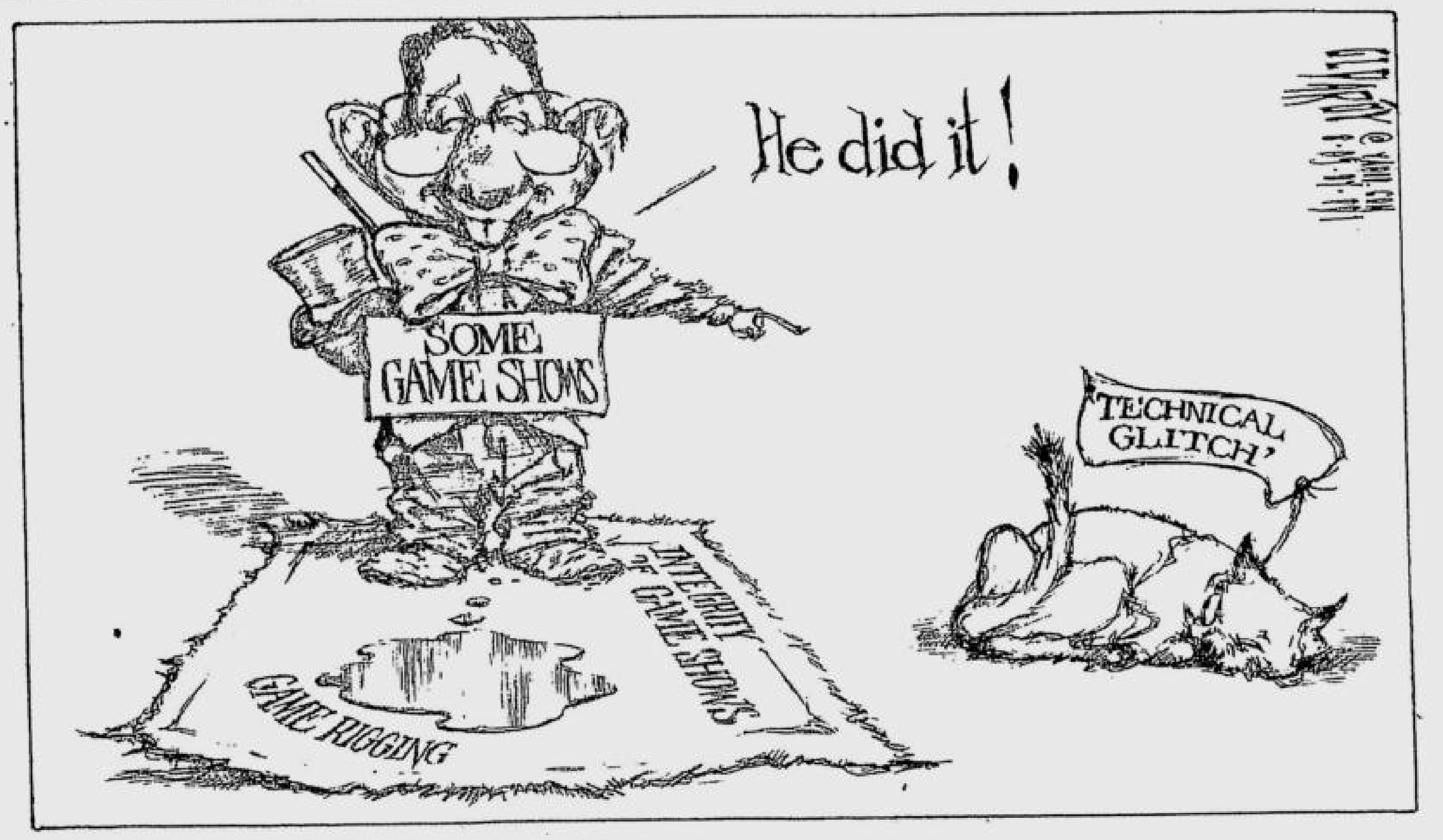

Cry of the widows

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"IN EUROPE, THERE ARE ONLY TWO COMmunists left," editor Sumono Mustoffa said over dinner in Jakarta. "Both are Filipinos." Since then, the National Democratic Front's Luis Jalandoni has become a naturalized Dutch citizen. Thus, in negotiating scuffles between government and the NDF, the late columnist Maximo Soliven would grouse: "Why is this alien meddling in our internal affairs?"

By Sumono's head count, that left Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Ma. Sison, 68. "If you're a 'true believer,' live in North Korea," columnists Alejandro Roces, Antonio Abaya and others needled Sison. "Or fight with the New People's Army."

Instead, Sison sought haven in the Netherlands in 1987. He chose well. The Netherlands' traditions of democratic space are sturdy.

The Dutch government bucked the deportation of Sison to ensure his protection from persecution. It facilitated meetings, between the NDF and the Philippine government—in The Hague in June 1996, in Breukelen in March 1997. Sison pocketed social benefit checks—stopped only after the European Union tagged the NDF and the CPP as terrorist organizations.

Sison exploited this libertarian elbow room to stoke a "people's war" here by e-mail and fax, dispatched from the comfort of his Utrecht flat. "The *burgis* lifestyle of these overfed aging commissars saps their credibility," the Cebu Daily News noted. "Absentee-generals stand Mao's dictum—'Revolutions are not a garden party'—on its head."

Dutch police arrested Sison late August. The national prosecutor's office asserted that Sison ordered "the murder (of) former political associates in the Philippines—Romulo Kintanar in 2003 and Arturo Tabara in 2004." Both broke away from Sison's group in the early 1990s. NPA hit men gunned them down. "A truly ugly image was the spectacle of party-list representatives toasting the assassination of a former comrade, who was Kintanar," snapped the INQUIRER's Conrado de Quiros.

Sison is detained at Scheveningen Penitentiary Facility while courts evaluate charges filed by the widows, Gloria Kintanar and Veronica Tabara. Under Dutch law, it's criminal to plot murder in the Netherlands, even if the trigger is pulled elsewhere.

Sison will get a fair trial. Dutch courts are independent and fair. But do his comrades see the patent irony? Kangaroo courts that stud the communist system they peddle would shred Sison's rights.

Sanctuary, as extended by countries like the Netherlands to foreigners like Sison, is a privilege. It is not a right. Privilege is interlinked with responsibility. And scrupulous observance of the host country's laws is the bare minimum expected.

Utang na loob runs deep in the Filipino psyche. Yet, party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo and Teodoro Casiño "transformed the Netherlands from 'patron of patriots' into 'lackey of the illegitimate,'" a Freeman editorial noted. "According to the gospel of Ocampo and Casiño, (the Netherlands) suddenly became a Gestapo state. (They) conveniently forget that for 20 long years, the Filipino communist leader lived off the graciousness and protection of that country."

Will the publicity jerk the Filipinos' fixation away from "Wowowee" long enough to hear the cry of hundreds widowed by communist salvaging in our midst?

"You kill the chicken to scare the monkey" was how Mao Zedong justified the murder of party leaders who bucked paranoid rule. That grisly proverb anchored the communist pogroms of the 1980s and the CPP's adoption of assassination as policy starting in 1992.

"A first set of death sentences were publicly announced," after the party splintered, Pierre Roussett of Europe Solidaire Sans Frontiers writes. Aside from Kintanar and Tabara, those killed included Benjie de Vera and Popoy Lagman. "Sison explained it was necessary to 'kill the chicken to scare the monkey,'" the study says. Thus, Hector Mabilangan's murder in April 1994 "was a warning to Rolly Kintanar and others."

Killings escalate the threat beyond the Left, Roussett notes. It squeezed recalcitrant "taxpayers," including those election "permits to campaign." The CPP-NPA-NDF "Hit List—A Preliminary Report" notes that in February 2004, the party pinpointed individuals and organizations as "counter-revolutionary"—and therefore targets for murder. Among those tarred were Rep. Etta Rosales, Walden Bello of the University of the Philippines, Sixto Carlos, Lidy Nacpil, Nathan Quimpo and Manuel Quiambao Peña of Akbayan and Joel Rocamora.

"Assassination is turned against the whole independent Left to impose monopoly of power," the study adds. "An overall policy of threats, death sentences and killings (was) deployed on a national scale, something no other group does."

Only Sison's release, we're told, can save the stalled peace-talks. Tell that to the judge. An independent tribunal of a sovereign country will judge the evidence, not what a handful of street protestors chant.

The Philippines anchors the peace talks on its Constitution. Nothing that impairs national sovereignty is acceptable. But the NDF rejects the reach of that Constitution. At every turn, it stakes claim to a "status of belligerency," i.e., that it is an equal among nations. But not even North Korea recognizes the NDF as such. Neither do the other 191 United Nations member-nations.

Whether the peace talks can be rescued is no longer the issue. Rather, are they worth saving? After all, the other party slaughters chickens to spook the monkey.

* * *

E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com

Walls

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

HISTORY LIVES—IN THE INTRAMUROS AND Rizal Bagumbayan Light and Sound Museum. That's at Baluarte San Diego, a few blocks away from San Agustin Church. I was there with some friends last week with a tour guide named Richard Gordon (this was his baby when he was tourism secretary) and I must confess I was pleasantly surprised, and impressed, by what I saw. It's a lot of sound and fury signifying . . . everything.

Everything for us, Filipinos, who know next to nothing about our past. The tour is not unlike the Universal or Disneyland tours if you've seen those (which is almost obligatory if you're visiting folks in America), though much scaled down, of course. And if you can do a tour of Hollywood movies, you can most certainly do a tour of Philippine history. I can vouch at least for Light and Sound's entertainment value: It's guaranteed to not bore you the way your elementary and high school history class did, with its emphasis on names and dates. The only names you have to remember are those of your dates to the tour. You could do worse spending more money—the tour costs only P100 and museum officials are trying to find a way to make it free for hard-up students—watching a bad movie with your MU and eating popcorn.

I am tempted to say this should be made required viewing by students, but we can always begin with Dick's fellows in the Senate and Joe's minions in the Batasan. I'm willing to bet that if you give our senators and congressmen a half-sheet-of-paper quiz on history, most of them will flunk. Hell, I'm willing to bet that if you ask them to sing "Lupang Hinirang," most of them will flunk.

Who knows? Maybe grounding them in the past will give them a better sense of this country's present and better care for its future. I can vouch as well for the fact that what the Light and Sound tour lacks in the kind of special effects the Universal and Disneyland tours flaunts it makes up for in the special effect it has on the heart and mind.

The tour starts with our pre-Hispanic past and ends with Emilio Aguinaldo waving the flag in Kawit. It lasts about 40 minutes (I forgot to look at my watch, which should say something about how engrossing it can be), a journey in time (and space: you go from room to room) from the small villages that dotted the islands engaged in planting and small-scale trading with seafaring Chinese; to the coming of the Spaniards and the initial resistance to them; to the conquest of the islands by Legaspi who employed divide-and-conquer; to the cementing (quite literally) of Spanish rule with the building of Intramuros; to grinding oppression and the rebellions it spawned; to the rise of the ilustrados and their greatest representative, Jose Rizal; to the birth of the Katipunan; to Rizal's trial and execution; to snatching victory from defeat, a nation is born from the ashes of a martyr.

It's a splendid and gripping story, told, if not at a rapid-fire MTV pace, at least in a visually exciting style the kids in particular should find "kewl." I liked three things about it:

First is that it tells our story from our point of view. This version of it shows once and for all that the days when Philippine history begins with Magellan's discovery of Mactan are over. We never needed discovering, we were always here, minding our own business, living peaceably with others and as freely and happily as it is possible to do with a simple economy. F. Landa Jocano was one of those who did much to show that we were by no means a primitive people when the Spaniards came: we had a rudimentary form of written language, a fairly well-layered social organization and strong religious beliefs. Of course, historians objected to his use of "Philippine prehistory" to depict that period, which bolstered the view that Philippine history really began with the Spaniards. But time, as the Light and Sound presentation now shows, has changed all that.

Second is its insight into the significance of Intramuros. Intramuros, of course, means "Walled City," a thing that truly deserved its name. It was built on the backs of the conquered natives, and it became the physical and spiritual embodiment of Spanish rule. The segment about Intramuros expressly says it, noting that the walls did not just rise in space, they rose in the indio's mind, making him believe there will always be a wall between what he is and can be, between his aspirations and their fulfillment. Unfortunately that theme is not resolutely pursued or "concretized" throughout the narrative. Well, it is never too late to make editorial, if not historical, revisions.

But it's true: Colonialism was the building of walls in space and mind. It built solid divisions between classes, much like the caste system; it built solid divisions within classes, or among the indios themselves, an affliction we labor under to this day; and it built a wall, strung with barbed wire and patrolled by a tower, in the Filipino mind, one that would make freedom—a Bagumbayan or Bagong Bayan, a New City outside of the Walled one—always seem unattainable. Jose Rizal broke some of those walls, as did others before him. But to this day, the dream of a Bagong Bayan remains elusive.

And, finally, there is something genuinely awe-inspiring standing on the ground where Rizal spent his last days on earth, and reliving those moments even if you only have life-sized figurines, the sounds of silence and "*Fuego!*" and the dark to do the trick. The past does spring back to life, and you must be a little dead to not feel at the end of it that you are right there in Bagumbayan, reduced to one of the helpless spectators watching Rizal falling to the ground in slow motion.

If only walls could talk? Ah, but these walls can. These walls do.

And how they talk!

Time to pursue peace at local level

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

A RECENT REPORT QUOTED NEW ARMY CHIEF Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano as saying that communist guerrillas in Southern Luzon are abandoning their camps due to demoralization over the recent arrest of their leader, Jose Ma. Sison, in the Netherlands. Yano said the military has discovered abandoned rebel camps in Quezon and Mindoro, which could indicate that many rebels are trying to find a way out of the communist cause.

It's not difficult to believe this. For over 20 years, Joma has been allowed to live freely in Utrecht, with liberal access to media and the Internet, and to run a revolutionary war by long-distance. Now he faces trial in The Hague for allegedly ordering the execution of two ranking comrades.

* * *

This may be the right time to pursue peace with the demoralized rebels. In fact, even before the arrest of Joma, a few neophyte members of the House of Representatives told me they were seriously planning to pursue peace in their own turfs. They know the rebels operating in their areas and after seeing the peace process come to a standstill at the national government level, they want to broker a dialogue between local government officials and rebel chieftains in the hope of forging an agreement to work together.

This is a wonderful idea. Too much Filipino blood has been senselessly shed on both sides of the ideological fence. Pursuing peace now at the local level has a far better chance than at the national level, where both sides engage mostly in saber-rattling for international consumption.

* * *

At long last after a decade and a half of seeking to upgrade the quality of passports and visas issued by the Philippine government to international standards, the Department of Foreign Affairs finally got it going last July. Overcoming difficulties with the contracted bidder, the DFA issued the first machine-readable passport (MRP) to a senior citizen named Herminio Torres. In the MRP, the passport holder's personal details are entered through a computer, instead of being written manually or by longhand. Thus, the Philippines was able to comply way ahead of the deadline imposed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for all member states to begin issuing MRPs by April 1, 2010. We are one of 188 member-states of this specialized UN agency created to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation.

* * *

Foreign Assistant Secretary Domingo Lucinario of the Office of Consular Affairs explained to this columnist that the immediate benefit of having the MRP is that border processing all over the world will be faster. Our passports' "machine-readable zone" needs only to be swiped or scanned at immigration counters abroad, instead of Pinoys being segregated from other travelers with "more modern" passports. Lucinario also said the MRP makes faking passports more difficult and deters crime and terrorism as it features a digitized second photo in letter screen on the identification page that incorporates biographical details of the holder visible only with the use of a decoding lens. This device makes photo substitution difficult.

The new maroon-colored passport has 12 more pages than the old green one but costs the same. The DFA says that green passports remain valid until their expiry, but it is encouraging people to apply early for the MRPs. I can only hope they're really hard to fake, given the ingenuity of criminal syndicates.

* * *

Hazing reared its ugly head again at the University of the Philippines Diliman campus, mocking RA 8049, the Anti-Hazing Law. Killed was Sigma Rho Fraternity neophyte Cris Anthony Mendez, prompting Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago to call for an inquiry, which was supported by her colleagues, Upsilonian Francis Pangilinan and Sigma Rhoan Juan Ponce Enrile. Santiago said that if nothing is done to curb this evil, Congress must review the law and consider abolishing all fraternities and sororities.

How can hazing be curbed? One sure way is to make frat elders criminally liable together with those conducting the initiation rites if they fail to supervise these exercises. Under the Anti-Hazing Law, if a person dies due to hazing, all the officers and members of the organization who participated in the act of violence shall be liable and penalized by life imprisonment. But it seems the law must be amended to also penalize the senior officials and elders of the fraternity, who must be identified. The reason frat members become barbaric is that more often than not, there are no elders to supervise and discipline them. This was one of the key findings of the investigation conducted following the fatal hazing of Ateneo law student Lenny Villa several years back, but nothing seems to have come out of it.

I recall a short story in our comparative literature class at UP, titled "The Use of Force," by William Carlos Williams, whose thesis is that even very normal and ordinary people can succumb to brutish and sadistic tendencies at some point even when merely disciplining children. How much more those who are under the influence of liquor and perhaps drugs and left without supervision by elders?

* * *

Alay sa Kawal Foundation is the beneficiary of a fund-raising dinner-concert for the widows and orphans of ordinary soldiers killed or wounded in action. The show, titled "Salute to George," features such talents as Aliw-awardee and classical-pop star George Tagle, veteran singer Ivy Violan, renowned soprano Rachel Gerodias and Cinco Angelo (billed as the local counterpat of Il Divo), backed up by the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra. Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes will sing two numbers for the soldiers' families. The concert will be held at the Crowne Plaza Grand Ballroom on Ortigas Avenue on Thursday, Sept. 13, 2007, at 7 p.m. Call Rose at 911-5615 or 4387100, or producer Beth Sison-Tagle at 0917-5088-858.

In the dying light in a pauper's eyes

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THE ABSENT ONE. THIS WAS HOW MOTHER Teresa referred to that absence that she felt in her life during her 50-year dark night of the soul.

Where was the beloved, the one for whom she poured out the substance of her life, the one supposed to give meaning and purpose to her selfless daring to love the world's most abandoned?

Mother Teresa's own revelations, kept and hidden even after her death 10 years ago, and made public just recently in a book ("Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light" edited by Rev. Brian Kolodiejchuk), are now the subject of scrutiny and speculation, even of awe. It is Time magazine's cover story this week.

But this happens to those who tread that mystical twilight zone reserved for the highly spiritually evolved among us. It is a price they have to pay. They have been privileged to experience the divine so intensely and intimately. And when the peak experiences that have led these chosen ones to do daring acts of love, when the ecstasy and consolation are withdrawn, when from lush orchards they are led to deserts, barren and desolate, there is no balm for the pain. Worse, there can be neither feeling nor non-feeling. Just a yawning absence.

But what made Mother Teresa's dark night so different from that of other known mystics was that it went on for a long stretch of 50 years. And despite this trial, she held on to what she believed she must do—to love what the world deemed unlovable—even while she herself was going through a seemingly "loveless" existence.

"Where is my faith—even deep down right in there is nothing, but emptiness and darkness. My God, how painful is this unknown pain..."

Hers was blind faith in its truest form, faith threatened but, ah, roaring with a fury. She pushed on, making the world believe what must be believed—that God loves unceasingly and so must we—and put aside how her own soul felt. She never expressed her doubts openly, except to her spiritual guides.

Was she lying then when she constantly spoke to the world about that great love that quenched her and sustained her work? Was she lying when she inspired others to seek that love and respond to it, and also spend their lives like she did?

Indeed, countless others have followed Mother Teresa's path to those who are hidden and hideous to the world's eyes. The thousands who, over the years, have joined or worked with the Missionaries of Charity (the congregation she founded in 1948) are proof that the divine love that she missed was not absent. It was at work.

Heroic indeed are those who do acts of sacrificial love even when love—the feeling—has hidden beneath the ruins. That is the real test. Mother Teresa surpassed the test. She was like an athlete who made it first to the finish line despite injuries and doubts.

It is with some guilt that I go over the words she wrote me many years ago. She responded to my scathing letter (in which I enclosed a biting statement from a Filipino religious) about how she "held hands with the dictator Marcos." It was the late 1970s, the Philippines was under martial rule and I did not like the way the dictatorship feasted on her presence and made her the face of compassion, how she allowed herself to be used. I was an admirer of that "something beautiful for God" that she was doing and that was precisely why I wrote her. I was disappointed and angry when she came and was swept into the arms of the conjugal dictatorship.

I was young, impetuous. I mailed my letter in India and I received her response while I was still there. From Calcutta, she sent me a stinging hand-written response. It was not short and sweet. Here is a paragraph: "I had not gone to your country to discuss politics, not to preach justice, but just to serve: to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give home to the homeless—that is all. To be able to do this, ours is a life of prayer and action and so we proclaim Christ to the poor... It is easy for you to preach the theology of Liberation and Justice with full stomach and well rested bodies, but our people in Binondo and other places around the world have to suffer the pain of hunger plus the discontent you have created in their lives. For me this is the greatest injustice done to the Poor...." And more.

I did write about that exchange ("Mother Teresa's strong letter to me," Sept. 11, 1997) shortly after she died.

All those years, she was painfully and secretly seeking her God. In the vastness of all the hiding places, in the immensity of a million faces, in the dying light in a pauper's eyes.

I am sure, in death, she found the Absent One at last. This God who had walked her across sandstorms and rainstorms, across fields turned white by lightning, this God who had walked her to the edge and bade her to cross alone. And then was gone.

In death, she arrived at last and realized The Absent One had been waiting.

* * *

Bravo, Bacolod and Dumaguete, for inviting the Manila Symphony Orchestra, the oldest in Asia, now composed mostly of young, talented musicians, for concerts. (La Salle-Bacolod yesterday and Silliman U on Sept. 7 and 8.) Helen Quach conducts. This is Quach's second coming this year, after a 16-year absence. The Saigon-born Chinese-Australian conductor, the toast of the stage for decades since she was in her 20s, later had to go through her own "dark night" and journey toward healing. (We wrote about this in the Sunday Inquirer Magazine, May, 29, 2007.)

Get a jolt in the soul from Beethoven, Grieg (with pianist Cristine Coyiuto) and Tschaikovsky. Bravo to St. Scholastica's College that provides a home for MSO and hones orchestral talents. The music will live on.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

Nitty-gritty compared to GDP

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

LET ME BEGIN BY CORRECTING THREE ERRORS inadvertently made in my previous column. The first two are that the first quarter 2004 GDP growth figure was eventually adjusted from 6.4 percent to 7.15 percent while the second quarter 2004 GDP growth figure was eventually adjusted from 6.2 percent to 7.10 percent (not vice-versa as I'd written). Third, the 7.3 percent figure I erroneously stated as the (upwardly) revised first quarter GDP figure is actually the GDP growth for the first six months of 2007, which is the average of the 7.1 percent for the first quarter (first three months) and the 7.5 percent for second quarter (second three months) GDP growth figures. The first quarter GDP growth figure of 6.9 percent was revised upwards to 7.1 percent.

And something a reader from the business community pointed out in response to my last column: "The problem ... is that the method of computing GDP was changed in 2004. The National Statistical Coordinating Board (which presented the numbers) does not know if [the GDP] claim can be substantiated."

Now let me move on to figures that hit closer to home than the GDP. The definitions of what is needed to survive, and the cost of minimum survival, are arrived at after intricate, scientific calculation. But apply those calculations in the real world, and you realize how even that may be far from the reality of many Filipinos. This is how we get a grip on self-rated hunger in the surveys, which drives our officials nuts. The thing is, a lot more of us want the luxury of living to eat, rather than merely eating to live.

Take a look at the regional menu for the National Capital Region developed by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute. This menu was used as part of the computation of the latest food and poverty threshold. From the paper "Issues in Estimating the Poverty Line" by P. David and D.S. Maligalig, here's a description of how the menu is arrived at: "The one-day menu is formulated from local food consumption patterns to satisfy 100% of the recommended dietary allowances (RDAs) for energy and protein, as well as 80% of the RDAs for the other nutrients and vitamins... The RDAs for energy and protein, which vary according to age, sex and body weight, are on the average 2,000 kilocalories and 50 grams per person, respectively. Prices from various price surveys of the National Statistics Office (NSO) and the Bureau of Agriculture Statistics (BAS) are used to determine the cost of the one-day menu."

The menu quoted in the paper is as follows. Breakfast: tomato omelet; fried rice; coffee (for adults) or milk (children). Lunch: fried *galunggong*; *munggo guisado* with small shrimp and *malunggay* leaves; boiled rice; *latundan* banana. Dinner: pork *adobo*; *pechay guisado*; boiled rice. To make these dishes, these are the FNRI's calculations, per person, in terms of ingredients. All weights after the ingredients or items, are in grams (and for the heck of it, I've added my own comparisons in parentheses).

Rice, white, ordinary 350 (2 cups of rice a day); *pandesal*, 50 (P2 *pandesal* usually weighs 35 grams per piece; although officially, "Pinoy *pandesal*" supposedly weighs 25 grams at P1 per piece); sugar, white, 15 (just a little more than one little package of Sunflower brand Haw Flakes 12.5 grams); margarine, 5; cooking oil, 20 (the weight of one Magnolia Cheezee spread sachet); milk, filled or evap, 33; egg, chicken, 23 (a little less in weight than a regular 3-cracker package of Skyflakes, 25 grams); small shrimps, 15 (slightly over 2 pieces of Hershey's Chocolate strawberry-flavored candy at 7 grams each); *galunggong*, 49; pork, liver, 5; pork, *liempo*, 15 (imagine a cube of pork the size of a P5 coin)

Munggo, green 10 (the weight of one packet of Shakey's hot sauce); tomatoes, 30; *pechay*, native, 32; *malunggay* leaves, 18; banana, *latundan*, 68; Vinegar, coconut, 5; onion, 6 (slightly less than a pack of Aji-no-moto Guinisa Flavor Mix, 7 grams); garlic, 1; toyo, 5; salt, 6; coffee, soluble 1 (one-sixth of an instant sachet). Try weighing these items at home and see.

This list meets "the minimum income/expenditure required for a family/individual to meet basic food needs, which satisfies the nutritional requirements for economically necessary and socially desirable physical activities." It would cost a family of five P4,920 to cook the menu listed above, multiplied five times and multiplied further by the days of the month. Last year, the amount was P4,151 monthly, or P137 per person daily.

Non-food basic needs come next. As determined by government statisticians, they include the following: clothing and footwear; fuel, light and water; housing maintenance and other minor repairs; rent; medical care; education; transportation and communications; non-durable furnishings; household operations; and personal care and other items. These add up to P3,334 a month for a family of five.

So the NSCB says, "Filipino families living in NCR comprising of five members should have earned a monthly income of P8,254 to be able to sustain their families' minimum basic food and non-food needs. Of the P8,254 monthly income, P4,920 (60 percent of the poverty threshold) should have been allocated for basic food needs and P3,334 (40 percent of the poverty threshold) to basic non-food needs of the family." Last year, the poverty threshold was P6,211 for a family of five per month (or P204 daily).

To go back to that menu and the portions. They are scientifically impeccable. But are they practicable? For some, such a menu would be a dream, for others, a scandal. For you, the reader, definitely a useful benchmark.

Piano lessons

YOUNG BLOOD

Jeca Enad

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

MY ATTEMPT TO MASTER THE PIANO STARTED WHEN I was in Grade 1. I was asked by a classmate to accompany her to her piano lessons, which I gladly agreed to do. We would enter a room adjacent to the school chapel. This room was where the nuns running our school stayed, and this was where they kept also two pianos. I would sit in the sofa next to the piano, as my friend proceeded with her lessons. In time, I became fascinated by the swift movements of her fingers and I found myself enthralled by the harmony they produced.

When we were in Grade 3, I would slip into the room to hear the nun give piano lessons. When I found the place deserted on one occasion and saw the piano's cover left open, I walked cautiously toward the piano, and began to trail my hands on the keys, imagining myself playing a piece. Soon, the piano teacher, with her sagging cheeks and deep-set eyes, arrived and in a moment she was by my side. I bolted up like a startled cat, my heart thumping.

She smiled at me, and then sat on the chair facing the piano and invited me to sit beside her. My hands were trembling and my entire body was shaking.

She asked if I was a new student, and I truthfully answered no. But by then she was already scanning one of those booklets on how to play the piano. She began tapping a key with her finger and told me, "Do. This is do."

I immediately realized that she wasn't the terrifying witch that I thought she was, but the exact opposite. I found myself learning to play the "Do-Re-Mi Song."

The kind nun told me to come back; but after a couple of sessions, I could not bring myself to go there. I was afraid that she might ask payment for my lessons and thought my mom would kill me if she knew. I forgot about learning to play the piano.

When I was in grade 5, our family moved to the house that my old grandma seemed to have neglected. The house was adorned with beautiful china and porcelain vases as well as an antique piano. My mother, who is partly Chinese, is deeply superstitious, and she decided to keep the antique wares not because of their value, but because she believed they would bring good luck. My father had the piano tuned in an antique shop, and when it was brought back, I started playing the "Do-Re-Mi Song" again until I got bored and gave up.

On my father's birthday, a man clad in a black suede shirt came, carrying a little suitcase. The guests gathered around the piano, as he took out a long tool and tuned it. After that, they began singing to his accompaniment, even as they consumed several rounds of alcoholic drinks.

I admired the man's skill on the piano. It reminded me of the nun's beautiful hands and the beautiful music she created, except that he was better. My desire to master the piano was revived, and I began imagining myself playing as well as he did someday.

That summer, my mother hired an old lady from the church's choir as my piano tutor. Almost every afternoon, she would bang her cane on our steel gates and demand to be let in. On the piano, she would grab my index finger and tell me in a loud voice, "Do! This is do! Do!" My fantasy about morphing into a piano virtuoso turned into a nightmare. Every time I would press the wrong key, she would seize my finger in rage and lead it to right key and then make me strike it again and again until my finger felt sore. The piano lessons, which used to be a pleasure, made me pray night would come quickly so that our lesson would be over. I got tired of her, and she got tired of me. Before the summer was over, she quit saying she could take no more in her old age.

I learned a few good pieces under some people who had the patience to make me watch them play and memorize each note by observation.

Our piano remained untouched for a few years. Recently when I felt like playing my favorite piece again, I found that it was off-key. Its sound was so horrible that I continued to play the piece in the desperate hope that by some miracle the piano would fix itself.

Of course, it didn't. Once again, my quest to wield magic on my fingertips was at a dead end. I couldn't call the man who graced by father's birthday a few years back, because I heard he had fled to another country to join his dear wife, and he was the only person my papa knew who could tune a piano expertly. I couldn't take piano lessons with the kind nun I met many years ago, because she had gone to heaven, and another who was more horrifying than the old woman from the choir had taken her place as a piano tutor in the school.

So, here I am left with my tattered hopes and a piano that is badly out of tune. But someday, maybe someday, I will learn to play it well.

Jeca Enad, 15, is a high school student at St. Catherine's College in Carcar, Cebu.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Abhorrent

"The killing of the soldiers and the beheading of some are truly abhorrent acts. But why should we follow the way of violence, resorting to similarly abhorrent acts in order to 'correct' violence?"

—The Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines, in a press statement about the government's all-out offensive against the Abu Sayyaf

Starvation

"To us in the Cordillera, even the thought of chronic hunger or starvation is not part of our vocabulary. In our values, to allow a family to starve is not only a disgrace, it is a crime."

—Thomas Killip, presidential assistant for Cordillera affairs, countering a recent health and nutrition report saying the Cordillera provinces are "hungry"

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The doc who moved a mountain

WE WANT TO THANK MICHAEL Tan for writing about Doc Louie. (INQUIRER, 8/31/07) I am Doc Louie's eldest son and I want to share with Tan and his readers our short tribute to the noble "Duktor ng Bayan."

"Ode to Lolo Louie (in praise of Dr. Glorioso V. Saturay)"

They say a death of somebody/ Who lived a life for the people/ Is as heavy as a mountain/ But no, a death of somebody/ Who lived a life for the people/ Is really not a death at all/ It's life nurturing other lives/ For the life you lived is a thread/ In weaving the people's new dawn.

The poem was written by his 14-year-old granddaughter, Ilena Rose. She was inspired by that story about a foolish old man who went to a mountain and began to dig. A wise old man passed by and said, "Why do you dig, foolish old man? Do you not know that you cannot move the mountain with a little shovel?"

But the foolish old man answered resolutely, "While the mountain cannot get any higher, it will get lower with each shovelful. When I pass on, my children, their children and their children's children will go on digging, making the mountain lower. Why can't we move the mountain?"

We cannot think of any other way to describe how Doc Louie has become a part of so many people's lives. He carried on his work as a doctor fighting a disease caused by poverty, greed, exploitation and oppression with the dedication and determination of the foolish old man trying to move a mountain.

The way he cared for, valued and served other people, especially the poor and the oppressed, is the single most valuable legacy that he left for all of us. And we shall all try our best to carry on our lives and our work this way. I am sure that this is the way that he would like to be remembered. Some day, people will wake up and realize that the mountain had been moved.

—JUN SATURAY,
jun.saturay@gmail.com

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Root cause

"APPARENTLY THE EDUCATION system faces two major challenges: access to education, and issues of quality." ("It's the basics, stupid," INQUIRER, 8/23/07) May I respectfully add the third major challenge Philippine education is facing—how to eradicate corruption in the system.

Corruption is the basic source of such problems as poor quality, hurriedly printed books, unfinished or sub-standard school buildings, missing funds, growing incompetence among the ranks where positions are given to the highest bidder, wrong priorities and many more.

When will our education officials ever learn? The future of our children—the hope of our nation—is at stake here.

—JAMES TANAKA,
tanakajd1980@yahoo.com

GSIS explains fewer claims, loans

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK SOLITA Monsod for bringing to our attention several issues about the Government Service Insurance System. We have also communicated with Ernest Federiso of Iloilo so that we could act on his 19-item list concerning the GSIS which unfortunately was only brought to our attention through Monsod's column.

However, permit us to explain the decline in the number of transactions in GSIS claims and loans. It is true that the number of transactions decreased from 5 million in 2004 to 4.6 million in 2005, and 3.6 million in 2006. There is a fairly simple explanation for this: In 2004, the GSIS offered two new loan programs, the Cash Advance and the Summer One-Month Salary Loan (SOS). In 2006, the GSIS offered an improved loan package called the Conso-Loan. This loan program consolidated three types of loans, the Emergency Loan Assistance, SOS and the Salary Loan.

The Conso-Loan extends the term of the loan to a maximum of six years. It also provides higher loan proceeds for members. More importantly, the Conso-Loan condones all the penalties and surcharges that availing members have incurred from unpaid loans. Simply put, several loan programs were consolidated into one in 2006, thus, the decline in the number of transactions.

We also appreciate the fact that Monsod agrees with the eCard Plus concept. We believe that the eCard not only promotes efficiency in the disbursement of claims and benefits but also protects our members and pensioners from fraud and such cases.

We hope that we have enlightened Monsod on some of the issues raised in her column.

—ELLA E. VALENCERINA,
vice president,
Public Affairs Office,
Government Service
Insurance System, Pasay City

One-sided report on 'Couples' split

THE NEWS ITEM TITLED "BISHOPS TO DIScuss 'Couples' split," under the byline of Jeannette I. Andrade (INQUIRER, 8/28/07), appears to be biased in favor of Antonio Meloto who is often quoted in the report. It's only his side of the issue that gets prominently articulated.

There was also this allusion that Frank Padilla formed a "faction" dubbed as "Easter or Playboy bunnies." The reporter must be referring to the Restoration movement that later blossomed into the Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life (CFC-FFL).

No one in Frank's group ever called it "Playboy bunnies," which cannot but be taken as a pejorative label considering that this is a "Catholic and faith-based community." It must have come from Frank's detractors. Yet, it gets printed as a fact in the report.

—GEORGE DEE,
geex26@yahoo.com

I was covering an activity of the Gawad Kalinga at the University of the Philippines when I chanced upon Antonio Meloto. Naturally, I took the opportunity to get his side on the reported split of the Couples for Christ. I apologize if the report seemed one-sided but be assured that there was no intention to make the article biased in favor of any personality involved in the issue.

—JEANNETTE I. ANDRADE,
reporter, Inquirer

Continued success for Inquirer, Cunanan

AS CHAPLAIN OF THE HOSPITAL OF THE Infant Jesus for many years, I have been buying a copy of the INQUIRER every day, from a vendor. I congratulate the publication.

In the Aug. 12 issue, I was especially interested in the articles "Eight steps to a strong heart," "The world within reach," "50 years of working for Christ and country," "Are you sleeping with the enemy?" and "Taking hold of technology," among others.

And I am also interested in the column of Belinda Olivares-Cunanan, not just because she has mentioned me many times in her column but because of her objective views on many events.

Wishing the INQUIRER continued success in helping us have an objective view on the many events happening in the Philippines and various parts of the world.

—FR. PIERRE T. TRITZ, SJ,
president,
Educational Research and Development
Assistance (Erda) Foundation Inc.,
66 Linaw St., Sta. Mesa Heights, QC

Sigma Rho alumni also want justice for Mendez

IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, IT HAS BEEN REported, in both print and broadcast media, that the UP Sigma Rho Fraternity was involved in the death of Cris Anthony Mendez, a senior UP student.

The Sigma Rho Council Inc., the alumni association of the UP Sigma Rho Fraternity, condemns in the strongest possible terms the untimely death of Mendez. We both urge the police and university authorities to thoroughly investigate this unwarranted incident to ferret out the truth.

We condole with the family of Mendez. No words can assuage the pain and grief over the loss of a son. We assure his family that the Sigma Rho Council Inc. is interested as much in bringing things to light so that justice may be served.

We also appeal to the media to be more circumspect in their reporting and not make a media circus out of the incident. Such will only serve to muddle the issue. Quite surely, the proper authorities are doing their job to solve the incident.

We raise once more our call for the university fraternities to convene, with the participation of university officials, and seek a common plan of action to arouse a collective consciousness, rooted in civic responsibility, to put an end to activities that only breed a culture of violence in society.

—BIENVENIDO I. SOMERA JR.,
president,
Sigma Rho Council Inc.
Legaspi Village, Makati City

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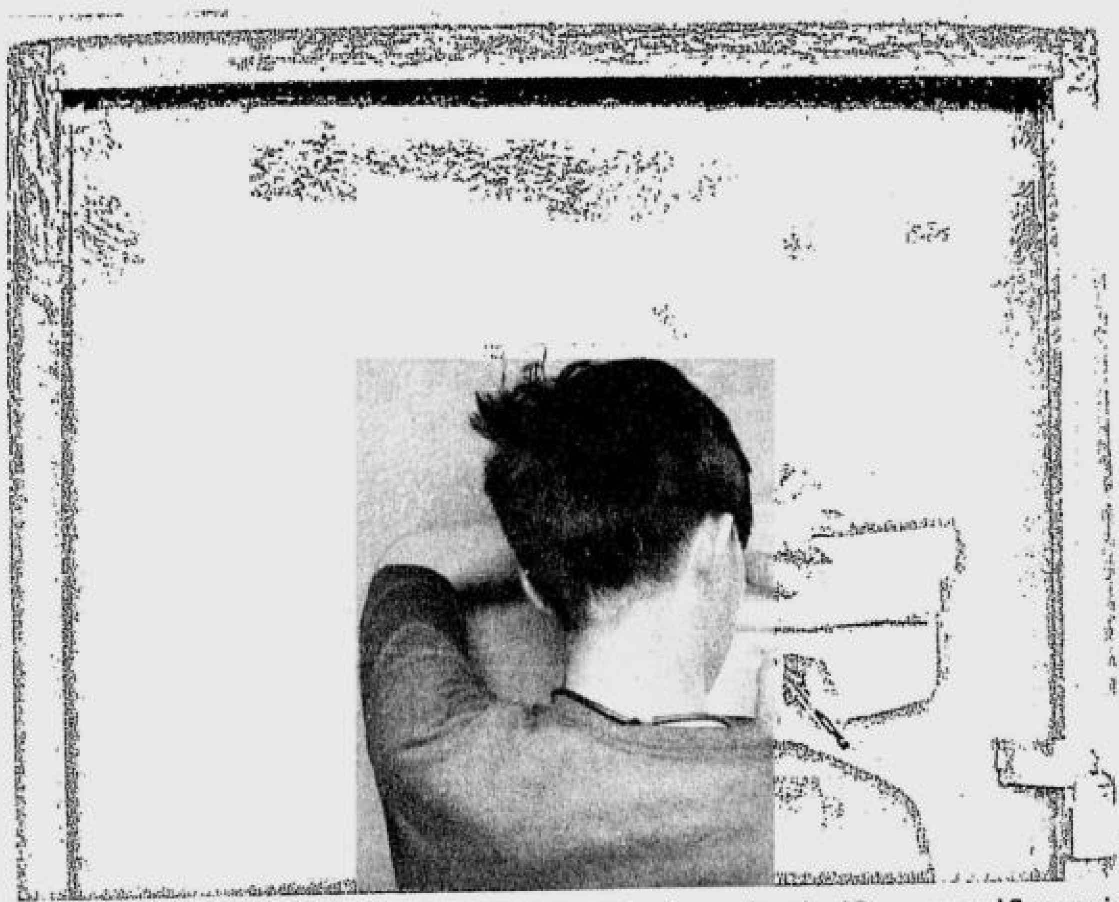
Student groups seek abolition of SKs



A TEENAGE boy fills out the application for registration for the synchronized Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections this year at the Commission on Elections office in Guinobatan town in Albay.
NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

BAGUIO CITY—THE COUNTRY'S STUDENT GOVernments want the abolition of the "non-performing" Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), now that Congress has started deliberations on the fate of barangay and SK elections scheduled next month.

They announced in a Sept. 5 manifesto that they would launch a letter-writing campaign to draw attention to their appeal, which was issued on Tuesday at the close of the National Leadership Training for Student Government Officers at Teachers Camp here.

Where youth belong

Joey Pelaez, executive director of the Department of Education's Center for Students and Co-Curricular Affairs, said government must ensure that all youths go to school, a mandatory state service that SK officers discard in exchange for salaries and perks offered by weekly city, municipal and provincial council sessions.

Benralph Yu, president of the Region XI Federation of Student Governments, said they do not want the October elections to push through at all to enable government to reallocate the money meant for the polls to augment the budget for public education.

This was not the first appeal for SK abolition, the students said. But their teachers said this was the first position on the SK coming from DepEd.

Better councils

Yu said student councils are better equipped to represent the country's youth than the SK, a carry-over from the Kabataang Barangay (KB) of the martial law period.

Student leaders said the student councils could begin community work to make up for the vacuum opened if the SK is abolished.

The manifesto, signed by 6,000 high school students and teachers, said the SK elections have "initiated our young early into the ways of traditional politics because of the dirty tricks, vote-buying, kidnap-for-votes or kidnap-not-vote tactics and mudslinging employed by their relatives and parents, who are themselves politicians, and their political patrons."

Basis for existence

But Yu said the student governments have not compiled evidence to prove that the SK has become corrupt.

"The SK has lost the bases of its existence with its miserable performance or non-performance to pursue its mandate for 15 years to develop the youth for service, patriotism and leadership, increase their social consciousness and enhance their participation in nation-building," the manifesto said.

"The programs and projects being implemented by the SK are too insignificant if not utterly irrelevant, consisting mostly of construction of waiting sheds and signposts that conspicuously bear and perpetuate the SK officials' names, and wasting precious resources that could have funded more important and urgent concerns such as public education." *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

ROUNDUP

Oil leaks from sunken ship

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A still undetermined volume of oil has leaked from a 34-year-old sunken passenger ship off Sibuyan Island in Barangay Magadia, Concepcion, Romblon during a salvaging operation to retrieve the derelict sea vessel on Tuesday.

"As of our latest survey of the area, the oil which dripped from the sunken ship is not that much for us to consider it as an oil spill. It's just an oil leak," said Mimaropa police director Chief Supt. Napoleon Cachuela told the INQUIRER.

Oriental Mindoro police chief Senior Supt. Agripino Cruz also denied that the oil leak had reached the coastal villages of Pinamalayan town. "Maybe those who reported the incident mistook the place as Pinamalayan because the island of Romblon is just near the area," Cruz said in a mobile phone interview.

Cachuela said workers hired by a shipping company were retrieving the sunken MV Mactan on Tuesday afternoon when its oil compartment was accidentally damaged. "We're still investigating what really happened and what is the extent of the oil leak," he said.

MV Mactan sank off Romblon and Marinduque in 1973.

Marlon Ramos, INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Japan funds fish project

DAGUPAN CITY—The Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) has chosen this city and the towns of Lingayen and Binmaley as recipients of a fish breeding project.

Mayor Alipio Fernandez Jr. said the project, a collaboration between the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-National Integrated Fisheries Technology Development Center (BFAR-NIFTDC) and Jica, aims to enhance the livelihood of local fish growers and provide them with scientific knowledge and skills on aquaculture production.

Jica representatives, led by team leader Tokio Kitamado, met with Fernandez and some village officials here on Aug. 20 to discuss the project's benefits for Dagupan's aquaculture industry. City agriculturist Emma Molina said Jica has chosen the villages of Bonuan Boquig and Lucao here as pilot areas for the project. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, INQUIRER Northern Luzon*

Waste burning discouraged

ANGELES CITY—The garbage problem here has prompted the city government to encourage residents to dig pits at the back of their houses for their non-biodegradable wastes.

The city government's environmental management system division, however, discourages residents from burning residual wastes and plastic materials, as the practice contributes to global warming.

Mayor Francis Nepomuceno told the residents that if they do not have backyards or spaces for pits, the wastes would be collected by the city to be. brought to materials recovery facilities and eventually to a sanitary landfill.

The city government started transporting 71 tons of residual wastes daily to the German-operated sanitary landfill in Capas, Tarlac on Aug. 16. *Jun Malig, INQUIRER Central Luzon*

Woman killed in grenade blast

MIDSAYAP, North Cotabato—A 36-year-old woman was killed while her year-old daughter and a relative were wounded when an unidentified man tossed a hand grenade inside their home here on Aug. 26.

Rakma Lumambas died while being operated on at the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center here. Lumambas, her daughter and a relative, identified only as Fatimah, were asleep inside their house in Barangay Poblacion 2 when a man tossed the grenade in their bedroom, Supt. Chino Mamburam, Midsayap police chief, said. *Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

2 motorcycle riders killed

SULTAN KUDARAT, SHARIFF KABUNSUAN—Two motorcycle-riding men were killed in an accident along the national highway here on Aug. 26.

Provincial police chief Supt. Ismael Ali said Torete Minandang, 18, and Montasir Salibo, 19, were thrown off and their heads smashed on a pavement in Barangay Salimbao here when they hit an approaching vehicle while trying to overtake another.

The motorcycle, an XRM Honda model, skidded in the driver's attempt to evade the approaching vehicle, said Ali.

The victims, who suffered serious head injuries, weren't wearing helmets.

Authorities at the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center said the victims suffered fractured skulls and broken ribs. *Charlie C. Señase, INQUIRER Mindanao*

Army recovers firearms

SAN PABLO CITY—Troops from the 74th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division raided the house of Juanito Mendoza, alias Macky, former communist guerrilla leader based in Bondoc Peninsula, Quezon and believed to be the security aide of NPA spokesperson Ka Roger Rosal.

Mendoza eluded arrest but Army soldiers found a cal. 22 rifle with scope, a shotgun, a 9 mm pistol, two night vision goggles, a telescope and blasting caps in his house.

Mendoza has several outstanding warrants of arrest.

Romulo Ponte, Inquirer Southern Luzon

MILF says 3 Cabinet men waylaid peace talks

A BATTALION of Marines disembark upon their arrival at the Lamitan Port in Basilan from their LST (Landing Ship Transport).
EDWIN BACASMAS

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has accused three Cabinet officials of the Arroyo administration of waylaying the peace process.

A deadlock in the peace talks has been going on for about a year now after both sides disagreed on the issue of ancestral domain.

Recently, the Malaysian government, which has been acting as third party facilitator, has called on the government to resume the stalled peace talks.

Muhammad Ameen, chair of the MILF secretariat, said he doubts if President Macapagal-Arroyo was really determined to leave behind a legacy of peace in Mindanao by signing a peace pact with the MILF that is aimed to address the Bangsamoro problem.

Ameen said there are many interested groups in and out of Malacañang who are out to make the Mindanao peace process a failure.

Describing them as the "hawks" in the Arroyo administration, Ameen named Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales as among the "spoilers."

"They set the unknown directions of the GRP-MILF peace process," Ameen said in a statement.

He recalled that in 2003, peace advocates in Mindanao had an audience with Ms Arroyo in Malacañang. There was an empasse in the peace process and the NGOs and peace advocates have lobbied Malacañang to resume the stalled peace talks.

Ameen said during the meeting, the President called for Ermita to sit beside her.

One of the questions raised to the President was on the update of the peace talks.

The President did not answer the question but asked Ermita to do the talking.

"Gaya rin ng MNLF, paikutin lang natin ang MILF (Like the MNLF, we'll just trick the MILF)," Ameen said, quoting one of the peace advocates as telling him.

Ameen did not say what was the role of Puno and Gonzales in the peace process.

With this premise, Ameen said he believed Ms Arroyo was not determined to ink the peace accord with the MILF three years into her last day in Malacañang.

A member of the MILF peace panel said they are puzzled with what is bothering Malacañang that it has been delaying the peace process.

Government and MILF negotiators met in Malaysia on Aug. 27 not to discuss the issue of ancestral domain to be included in the proposed Bangsamoro Juridical Entity but on the extension of services of international peace observers in Mindanao.

There was no discussion on when the peace talks would resume after they were stopped in September last year.

They, however, agreed to continue searching for common grounds for the resumption of peace talks.

Last weekend, MILF chief Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, told Muslims to be patient and remain hardworking.

"As our struggle enters its 35th year, the more we persevere and strive further to sure that we consolidate the MILF and to confront any obstacle along the route to victory," Murad told a group of Muslim religious preachers.

"If you live to see the fruit of your sacrifices, that is victory, but if you die, that is another victory," he said. *Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

Drowned boy's body found

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—The body of a Grade 3 student was recovered in Gen. Trias, Cavite on Wednesday, a day after he was reported missing while swimming in a river.

Senior Supt. Fidel Posadas, Cavite police director, identified the victim as Daniel Serbano, 10, a resident of Barangay Manggahan of the said town.

Posadas said residents saw the body of Serbano floating along a river at the back of New Cavite Industrial City factory, just a few meters from the victim's house, at around 8:30 a.m.

He said the bloated body was already decomposing when it was retrieved from the river. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Calatagan mangroves under threat

By Marlon Alexander Luistro
Calatagan, Batangas

SO WHO'S KILLING THE MANgroves of scenic Calatagan?

The third-class municipality (annual income: P21 million-P27 million) in Batangas that has been declared a marine reserve, is facing new threats, according to small fishermen.

Ruperto Aleroza, advocacy officer of the Samahan ng Maliliit na mga Mangingisda sa Calatagan, said the project expansion of JLV Prawn Farm in Barangay Tanagan would destroy the remaining mangroves in the area and the livelihood of thousands of fishermen.

JLV Prawn Farm, a project of lawyer Juan Lorenzo Vergara, has been constructing fishponds, pumping stations, laboratory building, laborers' quarters, a house and a wharf within an eight-hectare land in Tanagan.

"Calatagan is a marine reserve which is still under the process of rehabilitation. Sadly, we have been planting mangroves but a project would only wipe them out," said Aleroza.

The prawn farm's manager, Sergio Magbanua, has denied the allegations. "We never cut the mangroves because we know it is illegal. I don't know what caused the death of the mangroves but we did not kill them."

He added that the farm even helped by planting 30,000 mangroves in the sea.

Dialogue

Small fishermen asked Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto in a dialogue on Aug. 29 to help them protect the seas and convince Environment Secretary Joselito Atienza to pursue charges against those found violating the law.

The town has 48,001 hectares of municipal waters and 19 of its 25 villages are coastal areas, according to Jessie de los Reyes, chair of the Calatagan Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council.

About 66.5 percent of the reefs are classified as good corals with Hawksbill turtles known to nest at the Pagapas Bay, he said. Dolphins are usually sighted in the area.

"Development projects, however, are now threatening these species and the town's rich natural resources," he said.

De los Reyes said the livelihood of at least 3,000 families, who earn from the sale of fish, seashells, sea cucumbers, starfish, sea urchins and other marine creatures, would suffer as a result of the destruction of mangroves.

ECC document

Magbanua said the farm's quarrying activities were covered by an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. He denied that the new roads had destroyed the mangroves.

The farm was "totally compliant of laws," he added, claiming that it only developed the eight-hectare land area covered by the project's ECC.

Aleroza confirmed that the farm was able to obtain an ECC from the DENR's regional Environmental Management Bureau on Oct. 24, 2005.

In a letter sent to DENR regional executive director Eduardo Principe on Aug. 17, the provincial environment and natural resources officer, Maximo Soriano, recommended the temporary suspension of the ECC pending resolution of certain issues, including claims that "the development project caused the death of mangrove stands."

Josefa Epelonga, 44, of Barangay Tanagan, who earns P300 daily from selling seashells, said several mangroves had died and caused the shells to move to another habitat.

"We cannot even get close to the sea because we are being reprimanded by the farm," she said, adding that she had to travel to far areas just to be able to gather seashells.

Magbanua belied Epelonga's claims that the farm was denying small fishermen access to the sea. "Those people are always saying we are destroying the mangroves, but I challenge them to come here personally and check what we are doing," he said.

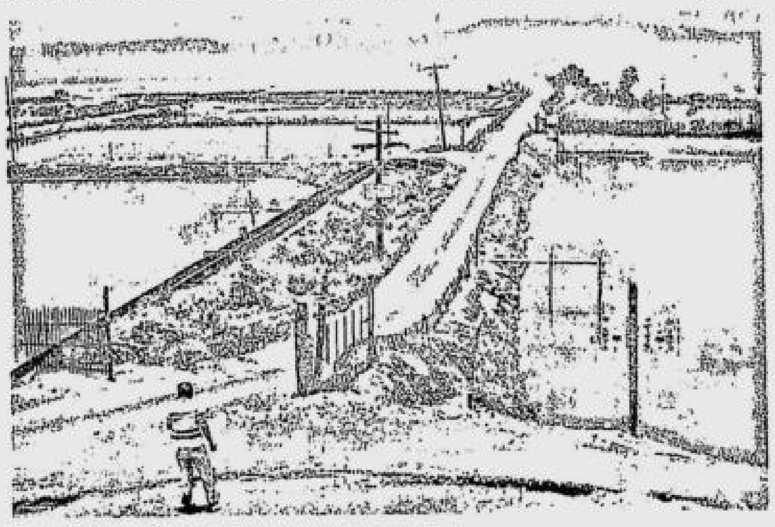
Reclamation project

Another issue is the reclamation project of businessman Raymond Moreno at the Pagapas Bay, which the small fishermen said had destroyed corals and seagrass beds in the bay. The DENR has already issued two notices of violations against the project.

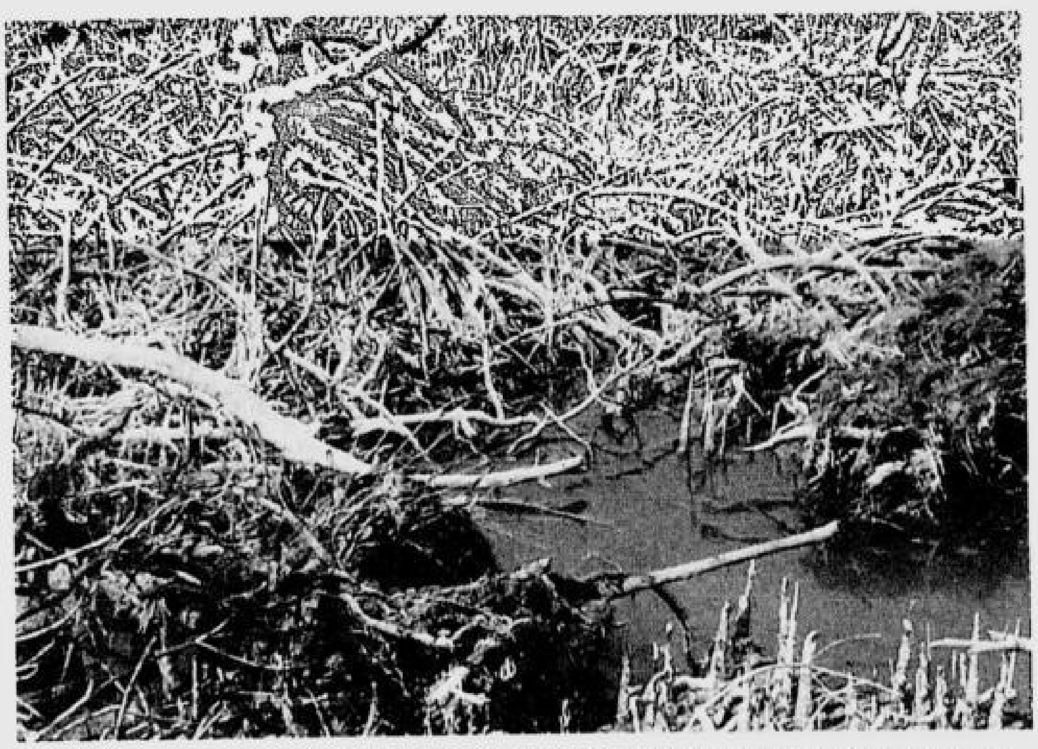
Then Environment Secretary Michael Defensor directed the dismantling of the reclaimed access road in June 2005, but this was stopped by a court when it issued a preliminary injunction order.

Environmental lawyer Maria Paz Luna said criminal charges of violations of the Water Code could still be filed by the DENR against Moreno for allegedly blocking the entry of water to the mangroves. Santos could help them convince the DENR secretary to file the case, she said.

During her dialogue with the small fishermen, Governor Santos said she would study the issues raised by the fishermen but did not promise a quick solution.



THE JLV Prawn Farm project in Barangay Tanagan, Calatagan, Batangas is said to have caused the death of mangrove stands in the area.



LIFELESS mangrove trees inside the JLV Prawn Farm in Barangay Tanagan, Calatagan town.
PHOTOS BY MARLON LUISTRO

Young inventor helps builders reduce costs

By Fernan Gianan
Virac, Catanduanes

THE CAPITAL TOWN OF THE storm-tossed island-province of Catanduanes is home to a young inventor who holds the patent for a cost-saving construction material that is now being used by local contractors and home builders.

Boxes of the prefabricated galvanized iron tie wire invented by 22-year-old Dexter Teope are being sold in hardware stores at P85 per kilo, saving construction companies or house owners more than 20 percent in labor costs.

In fact, the Japanese contractor of the multimillion-peso Gogon bridge project has indicated interest in purchasing the prefab tie wires.

Time-saving

What is now a promising business for Teope began as a worm of an idea when he was a 12-year-old Grade 6 student and playing at their neighbor's house then being constructed. "I wondered why it took so long for a worker to cut and bend the tie wire when it could have been sold as a ready-made material," he reveals.

He kept the idea at the back of his mind for the next several years, graduating from the Catanduanes Colleges as a computer technician. He went to Makati City to work as a waiter at Shangri-la Hotel.

After a year, Teope returned and began putting his ideas on paper—some simple and others so complicated that it required many moving parts. In January 2005, he finally applied for a patent of his invention at the Intellectual Property Office, paying a total of P2,500 in fees.

Patent

On Nov. 18, 2006, he got Patent No. 2-2005-000060 for his prefabricated tie wire and began making a simple machine to make his product. He had already perfected a machine—built from P300 worth of small pipes, bearings and tire spokes—in Manila when he ventured to a 35-story condominium being constructed on España Avenue.

His sales pitch to the contractor worked so well that he was asked to deliver 10 tons of tie wire right then and there. Stunned by the offer, he regretfully told the buyer that he had only 10 kilos available.

Still, he took as a great inspiration from the contractor's advice to him that he must come back if he already had 10 tons.

Teope went back to Virac and had three more of the machines fabricated. He never went back to Manila to deliver the 10 tons; he decided to start small so he could see his business grow.

Today, his GT Manufacturing employs five households in Barangay Rawis, with mothers and even disabled youth cutting tie wire to standard lengths while watching TV at night.

At his parents' house, Teope employs four machine operators and one packer, who altogether produce 140 kilos daily. Each box of 20 kilo-packs is sold for P75 per kilo to hardware stores, which sell them for P80 on retail.

The inventor's father Osias, 63, a retired school principal, says his son—the middle of three children—could have inherited his inventive streak from his grandfather Telesforo, who did not finish schooling but was good at mathematics.

Among his other ideas—about 80 in all and carefully drawn on paper—are a seatbelt harness for tricycle drivers, a multicircuit connector to replace the junction box in electrical systems, and a head massager built from discarded electric fan covers.

FERNAN GIANAN

DEXTER Teope, 22, inventor of the prefabricated galvanized iron tie wire.

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Business, FVR, Enrile, Ermita on Erap verdict

From page A1

criminals and a short list of big fish who are punished for wrongdoing," he said.

According to Del Castillo, the business community expects a verdict of conviction and corresponding punishment for Estrada, who is under house arrest at his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal.

"Confidence will be affected," he said of the prospect of an acquittal or a pardon.

Nonetheless, the business community is focused on the economic fundamentals and will be unnerved only if the security situation deteriorates as a result of the Sandiganbayan decision, whatever it may be, Del Castillo said.

No choice

In Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's opinion, Estrada has no choice but to accept a presidential pardon should the antigraft court convict him of plunder.

A pardon is not for Estrada to reject because when the President grants it, she can immediately pull out the guards from his vacation estate, according to Enrile.

The senator expressed doubt that a verdict of acquittal would again raise questions on the legitimacy of the Arroyo administration.

He pointed out that Estrada's term had already run its course and that Ms Arroyo was serving a new term. Thus, he said, there was no reason for Ms Arroyo to be insecure about her term.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, the ousted President's eldest son, said there was no reason for Ms Arroyo to fear any payback from his father should the verdict be an acquittal.

"We are only out to clear our father's name; we have no other agenda," the younger Estrada said.

On the other hand, former President Fidel Ramos told the INQUIRER on Tuesday that all talk about a pardon for Estrada in case of a conviction was premature.

SWS survey

He said government officials should wait for the court's verdict before making such an offer.

Ramos shook his head at the mention of the recent Social Weather Stations survey showing that most residents of Mega Manila were in favor of a pardon for Estrada.

"You wait for the court," he stressed.

'Consider the people'

At a press conference in Malacañang, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the Sandiganbayan's verdict could be used by certain quarters to sow chaos and instability, and that it was up to Estrada to ease the tense political atmosphere.

Ermita also called on the public to remain calm, and for Estrada partisans to observe the rule of law.

"As a good citizen and especially as a public official, all I can say is if my advice is sought [by Estrada]—and for that matter, I'm saying it right now—the best option would be really to consider the conditions of the greater majority of our people," Ermita said.

Asked whether he would advise Estrada to "shun any offer to do an Edsa IV after his verdict," Ermita said:

"Let's not think of things that would destabilize ourselves because, of course, economic progress can only happen in a stable political environment. Anything that will cause destabilization even in the minds of our people should be avoided."

Ermita said he expected Estrada to be "a responsible citizen."

"Considering that he was President, and knowing him, I think he knows what's good for our people..." the executive secretary said.

'He knows better'

Ermita said he could not offer anything in exchange for Estrada's cooperation in suppressing street protests.

"The former President is definitely much better than I am. He became President, I'm only where I am, so I don't think that I can advise him on anything. He definitely knows better than what I might know, as far as his conduct is concerned," Ermita said, adding:

"But I know that the reason he's popular is that as a political leader, he wants the welfare of the majority of our people, rather than just personal ends, to be [paramount]. To that extent, I think former President Estrada would know how to conduct himself, especially in light of all these rumors of what might happen as a result of the verdict, whatever the verdict might be."

'Exchange of views'

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales on Tuesday said that he had a lunch meeting last week with Estrada but that it was a mere "exchange of views."

Also on Tuesday, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, Ms Arroyo's newly appointed political adviser, said a pardon for Estrada in the event of a conviction was not far-fetched. *Reports from Norman Bordadora, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Cynthia D. Balana and Michael Lim Ubac*

Erap seeks regular pass to be with dying ma

By Jocelyn R. Uy

JOSEPH ESTRADA HAS asked the Sandiganbayan to grant him a pass to make regular visits to his ailing mother at the San Juan Medical Center.

Through his lawyer, former Sen. Rene Saguisag, Estrada yesterday said his request was ironic considering that judgment day was near but he had to be at his 102-year-old mother's bedside, as advised by the family doctor.

The verdict on Estrada's plunder case is expected to be issued on or before Sept. 14, unless the justices of the antigraft court's Special Division request the Supreme Court for an extension.

Saguisag presented a letter sent him by Dr. Lorenzo Hocson stating that the condition of Estrada's mother, Mary Ejercito, could "deteriorate at any given time" after three surgical procedures.

ESTRADA

Ejercito has been confined at the hospital since Aug. 10 for treatment of pneumonia and hypertension.

Hocson said Ejercito had endured the insertion of a feeding tube and a procedure to monitor the pressure of blood in the heart.

At any time

"As a lay person, without sounding morbid, we take this to mean that the Good Lord may call her any time," Saguisag said in a three-page motion filed with the Sandiganbayan's Special Division.

In seeking the court's permission to make regular visits to his mother, Estrada also acknowledged the difficulties of trips to and from his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal, where he is being detained.

"We, therefore, seek guidance from the doctor, the prosecution and the police, as to what may be agreed upon for recommendation and submission to this court so that [Estrada] may regularly see his mother in the weeks ahead ..." part of the motion read.

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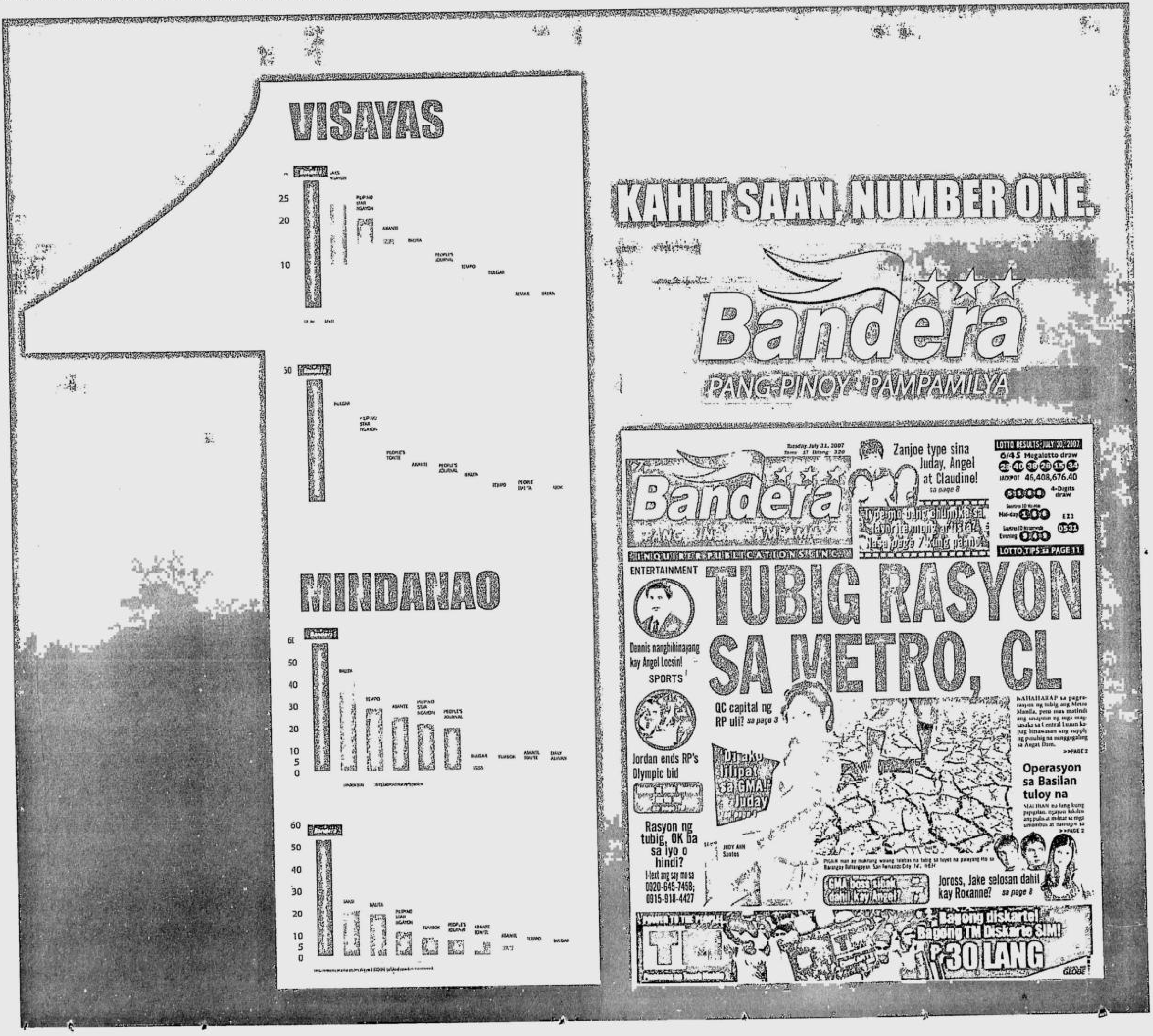
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Ex-spy chief called to Senate probe

VICE ADMIRAL TIRSO DANGA, FORMER WESTern Command chief, has been asked to appear before the Senate investigation into the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal, which begins on Friday.

However, Danga will have to seek approval from President Macapagal-Arroyo to appear at the hearing, as required by Executive Order No. 464 and Memorandum Circular 108, said Armed Forces spokesperson Col. Bartolome Bacarro.

"We will seek clearance from the Chief Executive for the attendance of any officers in any such hearing," Bacarro told reporters yesterday.

Danga was the head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (ISAFP), whose agents supposedly tapped into the phone conversations of Ms Arroyo and heard her ask former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano about "the additional 1 million votes" for her in the 2004 elections.

Danga, who retires on Sept. 24, relinquished his post as the chief of the Wescom in Palawan last June.

The AFP's Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA) received the Senate invitation for Danga last Monday.

Bacarro said the OLA will draft a letter to the President in collaboration with the Judge Advocate General (Jago). The letter will be signed by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr.

Esperon himself was among the military officers mentioned in the controversial Garci tapes.

Bacarro reiterated that while the Supreme Court has declared EO 464 unconstitutional, there are certain provisions in it that the high court deemed legal.

One of these was the President's right to ban executive officials from appearing during the question hour in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Generals, flag officers and other officers of the Armed Forces are among officials covered by the ban.

Memorandum Circular 108 contains the guidelines on the appearance of officials of the executive department before Congress. It states that all invitations and pertinent documents be forwarded to the President through the Executive Secretary.

The President will then consider whether the subject matter of the inquiry is in aid of legislation or falls within the scope of executive privilege, according to the circular. *Nikko Dizon*

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Executive privilege can block probe, says Miriam

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

EVEN WITHOUT EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 464, President Macapagal-Arroyo can still block Cabinet members' and top military officials' appearing before a Senate investigation into the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal by invoking her constitutional right to executive privilege.

"The Supreme Court merely invalidated EO 464. It never invalidated the constitutionally based doctrine of executive privilege," said Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, a constitutional law expert.

Santiago defined executive privilege as the President's power to withhold information on state secrets covering diplomatic, military, foreign relations and other sensitive national security issues.

"Executive privilege is not mentioned in the Philippine or US Constitutions, but it is accepted as constitutional. Both countries have applied the doctrine in a line of cases," she said in a privilege speech.

Revisiting 'Hello Garci'

The Senate this week decided to revisit the Hello Garci controversy, assigning the committees on defense, accountability and constitutional amendments and revision of codes and laws to conduct a probe.

The could set up another Senate showdown with Malacañang as Cabinet officials and military officials are likely to be summoned to testify on the alleged wiretapping operation by the Armed Forces intelligence services during the 2004 elections.

Santiago said the Supreme Court, in its *Senate vs Ermita* decision, "merely declared EO 464 as invalid because it made only an implicit claim of executive privilege."

That fault can be corrected by this time making "a formal, explicit claim of privilege," the senator said.

Another reason the high court struck down EO 464 was that it was a general or blanket prohibition on all Cabinet members and other high officials from testifying in Congress.

"That fault could also be corrected by specifying the facts which make the information a confidential state secret for the particular official," Santiago said.

Round 2

Santiago said that in the later case of *Gudani vs Senga* in 2006, the Supreme Court ruled that to prevent military officials from testifying in Congress, the President does not even have to claim executive privilege because she is already the Commander in Chief.

"If the President is adamant, her people could be cited for contempt, but it is possible that the corresponding warrant of arrest may not be served, since the president has the entire Armed Forces behind her," Santiago said.

But the senator did not discount the possibility of a second round of a legal battle at the Supreme Court between Malacañang and the Senate on the issue of congressional access to executive branch officials.

"Let's wait for developments. If it cannot be helped, maybe we'll see Senate versus Ermita Part 2," she said.

Santiago and other administration senators have warned their colleagues of the legal implications of possessing and playing information that had been illegally obtained such as the private conversation between the President and former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

A plus METRO

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DID YOU KNOW

AMERICAN architect Daniel Burnham was born on Sept. 4, 1846 in New York. During the American occupation of the Philippines, he designed the cities of Manila and Baguio, which now has a park named after him.

In his 1905 proposal for Manila, Burnham suggested the development of waterways for transportation, the construction of parks and the provision for summer resorts. His plans for the city, however, were not fully implemented.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

UP college drops stude as council prexy

Expulsion from university looms for frat recruiter of alleged hazing victim

By Jeannette I. Andrade, Margaux C. Ortiz, TJ Burgonio and Norman Bordadora

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES NATIONAL College of Public Administration and Governance yesterday stripped Ariel Paolo Ante, the president of its student council, of his position and recommended his expulsion from the university for his suspected involvement in the hazing death of Cris Anthony Mendez.

In an order signed by NCPAG Dean Alex Brillantes Jr., the faculty council asked UP authorities "to exhaust all legal and administrative means to expel Mr. Ante from the university."

The resolution was reached after the faculty council, headed by Brillantes, withdrew its recognition of Ante as chair of the NCPAG student council for loss of confidence and dereliction of duty.

"Mr. Ante has failed to exercise principled and moral leadership by his absence during the critical days after the death of an NCPAG student, by his inability to uphold student welfare, by his failure to mobilize the NCPAG Student Council to collectively respond to the death of a student council official, and by his deafening silence and unexplained absence," the NCPAG resolution said.

"The council condemns this behavior as not only irresponsible but also as an obstruction of justice," it added.

Mendez, like Ante, was an NCPAG student and a member of the college's student council. He was also the college representative to the UP Student Council.

Mendez was brought to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City on Aug. 27 where he was pronounced dead on arrival. An autopsy report revealed that he had been beaten up badly, bolstering initial suspicions that his death could have resulted from initiation rites allegedly conducted by the Sigma Rho fraternity for neophytes.

Ante, a Sigma Rho member, reportedly recruited Mendez to join the fraternity.

No contact

Brillantes said Ante had not made any effort to contact or talk to them since news about Mendez's death broke out.

Once expelled, Ante would not be able to enroll in any UP campus nationwide, he added.

"We want to issue a very strong statement that violence is not tolerated in our university," Brillantes said.

He told the INQUIRER that Ante had been recommended for suspension before for his alleged involvement in a fraternity rumble last July.

"That recommendation has not been carried out because we wanted to afford him due process. But this time, we sought legal advice and we were given the go-ahead," the dean said.

The UP Alumni Association, meanwhile, has offered its help to any person who may have vital information that could lead to the arrest of the people responsible for the death of Mendez.

"The senseless loss of life of Cris Mendez, who held much promise for his family and this nation, brings to the fore the need for a strict implementation of the Anti-Hazing Law. It likewise calls for the highest degree of vigilance among university authorities, members of the faculty and the studentry so that any form of violence and other illegal activities of fraternities and sororities may be stopped or prevented effectively," the UPAA board of directors said in a statement.

Call

They also called on all fraternities and sororities and other student organizations to "stop, condemn and never countenance violence and other barbaric activities" and to "adhere to the rule of law and civil order."

Fraternities in universities thrive on the "generous support" of influential alumni and violence continues because it's part of a fraternity's unspoken standard, activist priest Fr. Robert Reyes said.

"Working within and beyond the universities, colleges and schools is the Frat Alumni. These are the graduates who have left the university and now occupy rather influential and prestigious positions in society," he said in a statement issued from Hong Kong.

"Many of these older men claiming to be gentlemen are quite dangerous. The fraternity officers keep close ties with them and are quite willing and happy to do so because of the generous support that consequently flows," said Reyes, who served as UP parish priest from 1996 to 2003.

A prominent member of the Sigma Rho Fraternity, meanwhile, said that there was still no proof that the organization was involved in Mendez's death.

"There is no concrete evidence that the death of the UP student was caused by the fraternity's initiation rites," Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico said.

Doc, fratmen in alleged hazing case no-shows at NBI

By Tina G. Santos

DR. DAPHNE Gascon (left), who examined hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez when he was brought to the Veterans Memorial Center, arrives at the National Bureau of Investigation with her lawyer as Rafael Armovit (right), the counsel of another VMMC doctor, Dr. Francisco Cruz Jr., talks to reporters. Cruz was the one who took Mendez to the hospital.

REM ZAMORA

THE DOCTOR WHO BROUGHT suspected hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center was a no-show at the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday.

Dr. Francisco Cruz Jr, assistant chief of the VMMC opthalmology department had given his assurance to the National Bureau of Investigation that he would appear at the bureau after he was served with a subpoena the other day.

Instead, Cruz sent his lawyer, Rafael Armovit, to the NBI.

"The doctor could not make it today so I came in his behalf. We will be submitting his statement to the NBI. If you want to know anything, ask the NBI," he told reporters shortly after he met briefly with Romulo Asis, chief of the NBI Anti-Terrorism Division, who was tasked to handle the case.

"He has a right to privacy," Armovit said when asked why his client did not show up. He clarified, however, that Cruz was not hiding from authorities.

Asis said he expects Cruz to submit his affidavit to the bureau within the week. "He needs to swear to his statement before the NBI," he added.

Also at the bureau yesterday was Dr. Daphne Gascon, the VMMC doctor who examined Mendez when he was brought to the hospital by Cruz.

Accompanied by her lawyer, Freddie Lilagan, Gascon submitted a statement to the NBI but refused to answer questions from the media.

Special Investigator III Roger LA Sususco of the NBI-ATD said Gascon confirmed that she was the one who declared Mendez dead.

"She said that she noticed Mendez had several hematoma all over his body—in the arms, legs and feet. She did not notice any open wound, though," Sususco said.

Asis explained that Gascon's statement was significant as it corroborated VMMC security guard Jonathan Garduce's claim that it was Cruz who took Mendez to the hospital at around 1 a.m. last Aug. 27.

"She said she even asked Cruz where he found Mendez and Cruz reportedly answered that the victim was only brought to him," Sususco said.

Cruz and Gascon were among several people subpoenaed by the NBI to shed light on the death of Mendez, a student of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Those who did not show up at the bureau yesterday included Andoni Santos, said to be a member of the Sigma Rho fraternity, the group Mendez reportedly joined as a neophyte before his death; Ariel Paolo Ante, the National College of Public Administration and Governance student council chair and fraternity member who was reportedly the last to be seen with Mendez when he was still alive.

"We will again summon them to appear on Friday," Asis said, adding that they would also invite four other people, including Raul Grapilon, the Sigma Rho fraternity president.

Pasig City brings tax claim to SC

By Kristine L. Alave

THE PASIG CITY GOVERNMENT will not back down from its fight to collect P435 million in franchise tax from the Manila Electric Co.

Mayor Robert Eusebio yesterday said the city government's legal team was preparing to elevate the case to the Supreme Court.

On Aug. 28, the Court of Appeals' 10th Division dismissed the Pasig City government's plea to collect P435 million from Meralco, representing the franchise tax the power firm supposedly owed the city from 1996 to 1999.

The appellate court's decision reversed and set aside the ruling of the Pasig City Regional Trial Court-Branch 70 which earlier affirmed the validity of the city government's demand for payment.

According to the appellate court, Pasig has no authority to legally assess and collect a franchise tax from Meralco because it did not enact an ordinance authorizing it to do so.

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Stop pampering illegal settlers, says MMDA's Fernando

By Allison W. Lopez and Kristine L. Alave

ILLEGAL SETTLERS SHOULD NOT BE rewarded with new houses to discourage other people from following suit.

"It's as if we are rewarding people who squat. So we will see to it that only those who are qualified will be relocated," Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando told reporters yesterday at the Meet the Press Forum in Manila.

The MMDA dismantled shanties near waterways in Makati and Pasay last week as part of their flood control operations.

Residents living near rivers and creeks have been blamed for floods that occur in the area during a heavy downpour because they reportedly clog the waterways with garbage.

Fernando said that if illegal settlers are not rewarded with relocation sites, this would discourage other people from following their example.

According to him, the MMDA's "Balik Probinsya" program, which offers fare money to illegal settlers who volunteer to go home to their provinces, was still ongoing as it was also meant to counter a study that by 2020, 80 percent of people worldwide would be living in the cities.

Apart from clearing sewers, Fernando said they plan to remove obstructions on 3,000 kilometers of roads in Metro Manila to improve traffic flow.

The "Metro Clear Roads" project, he said, is aimed at opening more streets for the use of motorists to help solve the perennial traffic problem.

"We have about 5,000 km of roads in Metro Manila but only 2,000 km are being used. Most of these are turned into basketball courts, you can even see furniture and washing machines on street," said Fernando.

He added that the Metro Manila Council, composed of 17 city mayors, including his known opponent, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, has pledged to help in the project's implementation.

To prevent portions of Edsa from being converted into parking areas, Fernando said the MMDA would install barriers on sidewalks to prevent cars and buses from using them.

"We are also elevating the sidewalks on Edsa to prevent vehicles from parking on them," he said.

Discipline, added Fernando, should be instilled among motorists, especially among bus drivers who take a long time maneuvering their vehicles from their garages on their way to Edsa.

Mar Roxas' early campaigning

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

WHAT ARE AGENTS OF THE National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) doing at the piers?

The NICA, the country's counterpart of the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), is supposed to be interpreting reports collated from the government's various intelligence agencies and units.

Its main job is purely intelligence gathering, not going after criminals or smugglers.

But lately, NICA agents have allegedly been interfering in purely customs matters such as ordering the intelligence arm of the Bureau of Customs to seize cargoes containing highly dutiable goods.

My sources at the piers say that these agents, led by a guy with a Chinese-sounding surname, have been extorting money from brokers who facilitate the release from customs of valuable cargo.

NICA agents reportedly demand P5,000 for each container that comes out of the South Harbor and the Manila International Container Port, according to my spies.

These corrupt NICA agents have arrogated unto themselves the job of the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group (PASG) that, so far, has kept its nose relatively clean, my sources said.

Why "relatively clean?" Because Undersecretary Antonio Villar, PASG chief, immediately grounds subordinates on mere suspicion they are conniving with smugglers.

* * *

Will somebody tell Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II the 2010 presidential election is still three years down the road?

He's much too early in the campaign trail. *Masyadong nagmamadali,* making him look like an eager-beaver kid.

Just so voters will not forget him, Roxas went to visit the public market in Baguio City to apparently remind market-goers and vendors that he's still "*Mr. Palengke.*"

The grandson and namesake of the illustrious President Manuel Roxas has invited two warring TV comedian-hosts, Willie Revillame and Joey de Leon, to the august halls of the Senate.

The purported reason for the invitation is to shed light on the supposedly P2-million "Wowowee" game show scandal.

Aw c'mon, Mr. Senator, we know the real reason. Only those who were born yesterday wouldn't know your reason for initiating the Senate investigation of the alleged game-show scandal: Publicity mileage.

* * *

When an unexpected disaster strikes your home, like a member of the family having a stroke, what do you do?

You would know all the necessary steps to take before rushing your victim to the nearest hospital if you studied first aid at the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC).

Sept. 8, Saturday, is World First Aid Day. The rest of the month is National First Aid Month.

Your knowledge of first aid will come in handy when you stumble upon a disaster and victims need immediate medical attention to survive.

If you're interested in learning first aid, call up telephone number 527-0000, local 128 or 129, or 527-9979, if you're in Manila.

You can inquire from your local Red Cross chapter if you're outside Manila.

* * *

Sen. Dick Gordon, PNRC chair, has set an ambitious goal: Having at least one member of every household learn first aid and know what to do in case of calamity.

That's one in every four persons (assuming there are four members in every family) being a Red Cross volunteer.

If you think that goal is unattainable, you don't know Dick Gordon.

As first chair of the government agency that runs the Subic Freeport, Gordon was able to convince his constituents in Olongapo City and Zambales to work as volunteers without pay until the Freeport became self-sufficient.

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BEST FOOT FORWARD

A foot spa at Maginhawa Street, UP Village in Quezon City, pampers its clientele with a variety of services. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

Father, son caught with illegal catch from Taguig City fishpen

By Julie M. Aurelio

A FISHERMAN AND HIS SON were caught yesterday with a net full of *bangus* (milkfish) by the caretaker of a Taguig City fishpen who alleged that the pair stole the catch worth at least P375,000.

Enrique Paran was able to escape but his son, Randy, 19, was caught redhanded with the milkfish inside his boat, said SPO3 Eduardo Cabria, case investigator.

Fishpen owner Generazeth Capistrano said he was told about the incident a few hours after his caretaker caught the suspects.

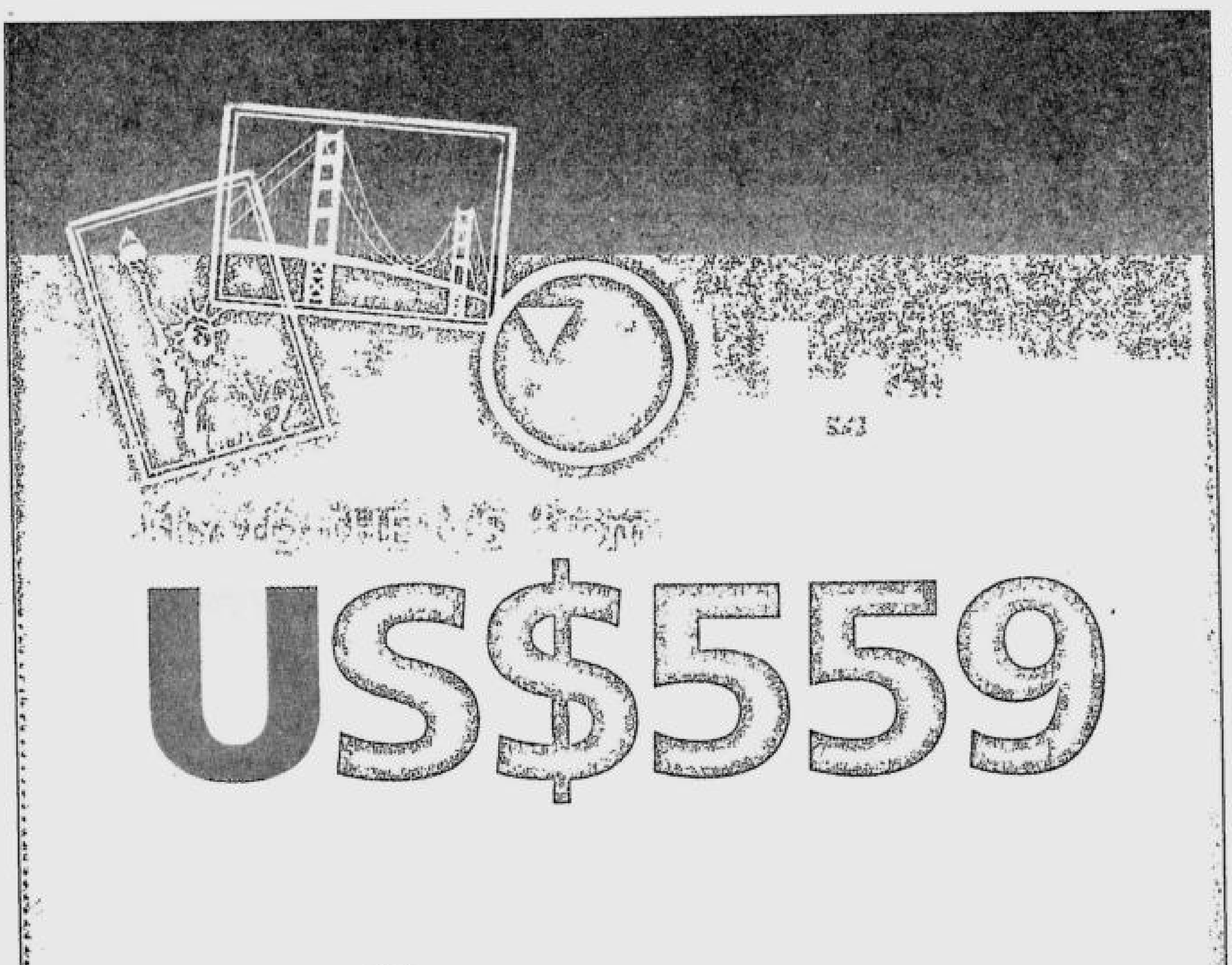
An investigation showed that at around 12:30 a.m. yesterday, the Parans were seen allegedly raiding the Capistrano fishpen at Tipas.

The fishpen is located along the Taguig City portion of Laguna Lake, where many other fish cages are located.

Rene Olvida, caretaker of the fishpen told police that he caught the Parans, residents of Napindan, in the act of loading the fish on board a boat which they apparently planned to use to escape.

The elder Paran, however, was able to flee from his captor.

Police are preparing to file charges of qualified theft against the two suspects.



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Student killed for not giving up phone

By Tina G. Santos

AN 18-YEAR-OLD student who refused to give up his cell phone was shot and killed by a thief in Tondo, Manila the other night.

Paul Andrew Maglonzo, a resident of Dandan Street in Tondo, was pronounced dead on arrival at the Mary Johnston Hospital for a gunshot wound in the back.

Police are looking for the suspect, identified as Ernesto Mata Jr. alias JR, who fled after the shooting.

Investigation showed that the incident happened at 11:15 p.m. near the suspect's house on Mata Street, also in Tondo.

The victim, accompanied by a friend identified only as a certain Alejandro, was texting on his cell phone when they passed by Mata.

Police said the suspect suddenly grabbed the victim's cell phone but the latter was able to hold on tightly to it as he tried to run away.

This prompted the suspect to pull out a gun and shoot the victim, hitting him in the back, police added, citing the testimony of witnesses.

METROBRIEFS

100 people lose homes in Antipolo fire

ABOUT 100 people were left homeless when a fire gutted a cluster of houses in Antipolo City at dawn yesterday. According to the fire department's report, the blaze started at 4:15 a.m. in a house owned by the Okinoko family in Munting Dilaw village and quickly spread to other shanties, which were mostly made of wood. Help did not arrive immediately. It took sometime for firefighters to reach the site since they got lost on their way to the village. FO3 Gary Cantillon said the fire was caused by an unattended mosquito coil, which was placed near combustible materials. He said damage to the property was placed between P300,000 and P400,000. No one was injured or killed in the blaze. Cantillon said the displaced families were evacuated to the barangay hall and health center.

Kristine L. Alave

Man kills wife who tried to leave him

A 60-YEAR-OLD man shot his wife dead inside their house in Quezon City after she tried to leave him at dawn yesterday. Police promptly arrested Guillermo San Jose after their neighbors reported hearing a gunshot from the couple's house in Barangay San Agustin, Novaliches. They found his. wife, Leticia, 46, with a gunshot wound on the forehead. She had died instantly, according to a report from the Novaliches Police station 4. It added that neighbors heard the couple arguing early in the morning with Leticia complaining about her husband's laziness and failure to land a job. San Jose, on the other hand, accused him wife of being unfaithful. The police report said that the argument became more heated and Leticia started packing up her things. But as she was gathering her belongings, San Jose allegedly took his cal. .38 revolver and shot her in the head at 4:20 a.m. Police said they would charge him with parricide.

Kenneth M. del Rosario

Women power to the rescue

AN all-women police team shot and killed a robber after he held up a call center agent in Quezon City. The police team, members of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit led by Senior Insp. Cherry Lou Donato, 23, also recovered the valuables of Michelle delos Santos. The victim said she had just stepped out of a restaurant in La Loma at 3:45 p.m. Monday when a man pointed a gun at her and grabbed her bag. He was about to flee when the victim screamed, catching the attention of the police team which was on patrol. The policewomen ran after the suspect but he fired on them, forcing them to fire back.

Jeannette I. Andrade

MMDA launches Traffic Radio on Sept. 24

FOR 17 hours every day, Metro Manila motorists can soon tune in to a radio station specially made for all 1.4 million of them. On Sept. 24, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's Traffic Radio-1206 AM, a radio station devoted mostly to traffic updates and road conditions, will go on the air. The MMDA announced that it's all systems go for Traffic Radio which it described as "virtually a road show with lots of news, information, public service, entertainment and with every hour, on the hour traffic reports." MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said the station, which signs on at 4 a.m., will serve as a conduit between the agency and listeners about traffic and road conditions, as well as reminders for the convenience and safety of road users.

DJ Yap

Drama on breastfeeding to air over dzRH

ON Sept. 6 to 7, from 9 to 9:30 p.m., radio station drZH will feature "Bukal sa Dibdib," a drama which will tackle the benefits of breastfeeding. Hosted by Cecille Guidote Alvarez, the program, launched by the World Health Organization, Department of Health and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the United Nations Childrens Fund, is aimed at educating people about breastfeeding.

WORLDBRIEFS

Thaksin won't return to Thailand

LONDON—Former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is unlikely to return to Thailand in the near future because he fears for his safety, a statement said. A day after a Thai court issued a new set of arrest warrants for him and his wife, Thaksin's public relations company said the exiled former leader was innocent of any crime. "Dr. Thaksin maintains his innocence and states that he is unlikely to be able to return to Thailand in the short term because of personal safety issues," the Bell Pottinger Group said in an e-mail statement. *AP*

Mahathir undergoes 2nd bypass

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad was recovering in intensive care on Wednesday after his second heart bypass surgery, the hospital treating him said in a statement. "Doctors are happy with his rate of progress, which is as expected in post-bypass surgery," Kuala Lumpur's National Heart Institute said. The 82-year-old former leader was admitted to the heart institute on Sunday after suffering two heart attacks in the past year and spent about five hours on the operating table on Tuesday. *AFP*

US adventurer Fossett missing

RENO—US millionaire adventurer Steve Fossett, who made record-breaking solo flights by plane and balloon, has disappeared over the Nevada desert after taking off in a small plane to scout sites for an attempt to set a world land speed record, authorities said on Tuesday. The Federal Aviation Administration said Fossett, 63, was reported missing on Monday night after taking off from a ranch in a single-engine aircraft in the morning. *Reuters*

Bomb kills 11 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—A roadside bomb rocked an eastern Baghdad Shiite neighborhood early Wednesday, killing at least 11 people and injuring 19 others when it exploded next to buses used by morning commuters, police and hospital officials said. Blood stained the ground around a small crater caused by the bomb, which went off in the predominantly Shiite neighborhood of Baladiyat just before 8 a.m. Video from Associated Press Television News showed the scene strewn with broken glass and littered with people's shoes and other items. *AP*

Felix batters Nicaragua

MANAGUA—A furious Hurricane Felix on Tuesday left a trail of devastation in an already dirt-poor area of Nicaragua, killing at least four people, including a new-born baby, and destroying 5,000 homes. *AFP*

1ST KOREAN ASTRONAUT
South Korean robotics expert and former amateur boxing champion Ko San will be the country's first person in space when he flies on a Russian Soyuz capsule to the International Space Station next year. The 30-year-old Ko, who works at the Korea Aerospace Research Institute, beat out Yi Soo-yeon, a 29-year-old female mechanical engineer, following performance and other tests during training in Russia. AP

N. Korea closer to being delisted

WASHINGTON—NORTH KOREA is closer to being removed from the US state sponsors of terrorism list following commitments to end its nuclear weapons program, a US official said on Tuesday.

US nuclear envoy Christopher Hill told the North Koreans at a Geneva meeting at the weekend that there were only a few more issues that need to be resolved before Pyongyang's removal from the blacklist, the official said.

"My understanding is that he made it pretty clear to them that the remaining issues—at least on the terrorism list piece of this—are not that extensive," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The official said the outstanding issues included North Korea's explanation over its alleged involvement in the 1987 midair bombing of Korean Airlines Flight 858, which killed all 115 people aboard.

"What I also am trying to get away from is the notion that this is purely going to be, 'we just decide we are going to do it and they don't have to answer the questions about (the KAL issue) and couple of other things that got them on the list in the first place," the official said.

The State Department says in its website that North Korea, designated in January, 1988 as a state sponsor of terrorism, "is not known to have sponsored any terrorist acts since the bombing of a Korean Airlines flight in 1987."

But it noted that the fate of Japanese nationals abducted by North Korea remained an unresolved and "contentious" issue. It also said that four Japanese Red Army members remained in North Korea after being linked to a jet hijacking in 1970.

Tom Casey, a US State Department spokesperson, said US government departments were working on a process to prepare for any eventual removal of North Korea from the terror list.

"I know there have been discussions about this," said Casey, though he declined to elaborate in detail. "Obviously, they involve a variety of different government agencies," he said.

Casey said that there were a series of legal standards, both for getting on and off the US terror list, adding that US laws and regulations had to be fully met before Pyongyang was removed from the list.

He hinted that any mechanism or timing for such removal could be discussed under a six-nation meeting among nuclear envoys expected this month in Beijing.

North Korean state media reported on Monday that the United States had agreed to strike Pyongyang from its blacklist of states that sponsor terrorism during Hill's talks in Geneva with his Pyongyang counterpart Kim Kye Gwan.

This claim was swiftly denied by the US side. Hill said on Tuesday that a delisting depends on further steps towards denuclearization. *AFP*

Sept.11 memorial shows WTC pieces

NEW YORK—VISITORS to the New York City memorial for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks will see two huge pieces of the World Trade Center's original steel facade inside a glass-walled pavilion that leads them to the museum.

In new drawings released on Tuesday by the National Sept. 11 Memorial & Museum, the columns—each up to 90 feet (27.4 meters) high—that stood near the base of the twin towers rise next to a stairway that leads visitors down to the museum.

Museum officials are still considering what other artifacts to showcase at the Sept. 11 memorial and where to put them. The site's original plan called for iconic artifacts from the towers to be displayed aboveground. A group of Sept. 11 victims' family members had lobbied for years to have pieces of the steel facade at street level.

The columns are among more than 1,000 pieces of steel from the fallen towers in storage at a hangar at John F. Kennedy International Airport. *AP*

'Chemical Ali' gets death penalty

BAGHDAD—IRAQ'S TOP COURT said on Tuesday it has confirmed the death sentence on "Chemical Ali" and two other cohorts of Saddam Hussein convicted of genocide and they will be hanged within 30 days.

"The Iraqi Supreme Court has confirmed the death sentence on Ali Hassan al-Majid, Sultan Hashim al-Tai and Hussein Rashid al-Tikriti," court chief Judge Aref Shaheen told a press conference.

Asked when the three would be executed, Shaheen replied: "According to Iraqi law, sentence must be carried out within 30 days, no more."

Majid, widely known as "Chemical Ali" for using poison gas against ethnic Kurds, was the executed Iraqi dictator's most notorious hatchet man, Tai was his defense minister and Tikriti was armed forces deputy chief of operations.

The three were sentenced to death on June 24 after being found responsible for the slaughter of thousands of Kurds in the so-called Anfal campaign of 1988.

An estimated 182,000 Kurds were killed and 4,000 villages wiped out in the brutal campaign of bombings, mass deportation and gas attacks.

"Thousands of people were killed, displaced and disappeared," Iraqi High Tribunal chief judge Mohammed al-Oreibi al-Khalifah said after he had passed sentence in June.

"They were civilians with no weapons and nothing to do with war." Majid, 66, was the last of the six defendants to learn his fate in the Anfal case—the second trial of former Saddam cohorts on charges of crimes against humanity since the fall of the feared regime in 2003. *AFP*

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Germany, Denmark foil terror plots

3 arrested for plotting attacks on Frankfurt airport, US base

BERLIN—GERMAN AUTHORITIES SAID ON Wednesday they had arrested three suspected Islamic terrorists for allegedly plotting attacks on Frankfurt International Airport, one of Europe's busiest, along with nearby Ramstein Air Base, a key US and Nato military hub.

Prosecutors said they had arrested three suspected members of "an Islamic-motivated terrorist organization," but gave no further details. German Defense Minister Franz Josef Jung told ARD broadcaster the three men were suspected of targeting the airport and base.

"There was an imminent threat," Jung said, but declined to elaborate. The Sudwestrundfunk public broadcaster said two of the suspects had German citizenship while the third was Pakistani.

Prosecutors in Karlsruhe said the arrests took place on Tuesday afternoon, and that police had also carried out searches across the country. The suspects are to be brought before a judge later Wednesday.

German and US officials have warned of the possibility of a terrorist attack, and security measures have been increased.

Navy Capt. Jeff Gradeck, spokesperson for the US military's European Command in Stuttgart said German authorities had contacted them concerning the alleged plot, but had no further information.

"We extend our gratitude to Germany for their efforts in protecting us," Gradeck said.

The leading Der Spiegel weekly said in its online edition that the group has been under observation by German authorities for many months and all three men are considered radical Islamists with contacts to terror cells abroad.

Authorities decided to move in on the group after they were observed moving a stock of chemicals that could be used for making a bomb from one storehouse to another, Spiegel said.

Germany, which did not send troops to Iraq, has largely been spared terrorist attacks like the train and subway bombings in Madrid and London—although its involvement in the attempt to stabilize Afghanistan against Islamic insurgents has led to fears it might be targeted.

In July 2006 two gas bombs were placed on commuter trains but did not explode. Officials said that attack was motivated by anger over cartoons portraying the Prophet Muhammad in a Danish newspaper. Several suspects are on trial in Lebanon, and a Lebanese man has been charged in Germany.

Chancellor Angela Merkel said in an interview released on Wednesday that German troops would remain in Afghanistan for several more years, despite recent setbacks in the region.

U.S. AIR FORCE
Ramstein Air Base

GERMAN Defense Minister Peter Struck, left, and Governor of German federal state Rhineland-Palatinate Kurt Beck, right, are seen during their visit at the US Airbase of Ramstein, southern Germany, in this file photo. AP

"To walk away would send the wrong signal," Merkel told N-24 television.

Magnus Norell, at the Swedish Defense Research Agency, said while Germany's mission in Afghanistan could be a motive for a terrorist attack, a flood of other factors could also play in.

"It could be discontent with Germany, or even western Europe as a whole. It's really not that easy as to say that this (Afghanistan) would be the reason for it."

Opened in 1953, Ramstein is one of the best-known US Air Force bases worldwide because it serves as a major conduit for US troops and materiel moving in and out of Europe, Asia and the Middle East. It is a key transit point for injured coalition troops from Iraq and Afghanistan who are flown there to be taken to the nearby military hospital at Landstuhl.

Besides US personnel, Canadian, German, British, French, Belgian, Czech, Norwegian, Dutch and Danish forces are also located there.

Frankfurt International Airport is Europe's third-busiest airport, handling hundreds of in- and outbound flights to and from the Americas, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe. In July, a record 5.2 million passengers arrived or departed from the airport, a new record. In 2005, more than 52.2 million passengers came through the airport, which is also a major cargo hub. *AP*

8 suspects nabbed in Denmark

COPENHAGEN—DANISH POlice said on Tuesday they had averted a terrorist attack with the arrest overnight of eight men allegedly linked to al-Qaida and in possession of explosives.

The director general of the Danish intelligence service PET, Jakob Scharf, said the arrests near Copenhagen had "prevented a terrorist attack." "We would describe the main suspects as militant Islamists with international contacts, including leading members of al-Qaida," Scharf told a press conference.

Scharf would not disclose any information about the possible target of the planned attack, but said there was "no direct link" to Denmark's military involvement in Iraq or Afghanistan.

There was no connection either to the Prophet Muhammad cartoons that were printed in a Danish newspaper in September 2005 and sparked angry Muslim protests around the world, he said.

PET said the eight were "suspected of preparing a terrorist act with the use of explosives."

Police raided 11 homes in the early hours of Tuesday, after an investigation that had been underway for several months and during which PET cooperated with foreign intelligence agencies. *AFP*

Woman 'cured' by Mother Teresa lives in poverty

DANOGRAM, INDIA—AN INdian woman whose claimed miracle cure from cancer led to Mother Teresa being thrust toward sainthood has accused Catholic nuns of abandoning her to a life of misery.

The angry comments came as the Missionaries of Charity, the order founded by the Albanian-born nun in the eastern Indian metropolis of Calcutta in 1950, prepared to mark Wednesday's 10th anniversary of the heroine's death.

"I will not go to any church," 40-year-old Manica Besra told AFP, squatting on the floor of her thatched and mud house in Danogram village, 500 kilometers from the eastern city of Calcutta, where Mother Teresa worked.

"I will remember Mother Teresa on her death anniversary at home with my children and husband," she added.

It was Besra's alleged miracle cure from a "lumpy" tumor on Sept. 6, 1998—a year after the nun's death—that led to the Vatican clearing the way for Mother Teresa's beatification in October 2003.

Usually, the journey from death to beatification to sainthood takes decades if not centuries in the Catholic Church, which has 1.1 billion followers worldwide.

"My hut was frequented by nuns of the Missionaries of Charity before the beatification of Mother Teresa," Besra said.

"They made of lot of promises to me and assured me of financial help for my livelihood and my children's education," she claimed, adding that she was also escorted to the Vatican for the beatification ceremony.

"After that, they forgot me," said Besra, tears welling up in her eyes.

With the small piece of family land mortgaged to a village money lender years ago, Besra said she is struggling to survive.

"I am now living in penury. My husband is sick. My children have stopped going to school as I have no money. I have to work in the fields to feed my husband and five children," said Besra, clad in a torn yellow sari. *AFP*

Thousands pay homage to Mother Teresa

CALCUTTA—THOUSANDS of devotees thronged to the headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity in the Indian city of Calcutta on Wednesday to offer prayers for Mother Teresa on the 10th anniversary of her death.

The doors of Mother House, where the ethnic Albanian nun lived and died, were thrown open at dawn and hundreds of slum dwellers from the city walked in.

Holding candles, they knelt before Mother Teresa's tomb in one of the sprawling halls of the building and prayed as nuns clad in traditional white saris with blue borders joined them.

"She was a great social worker with a strong heart to help all the poor. She is God's secretary," said Pushpa, a middle-aged woman who came all the way from the southern state of Kerala to pray for her cancer-stricken mother.

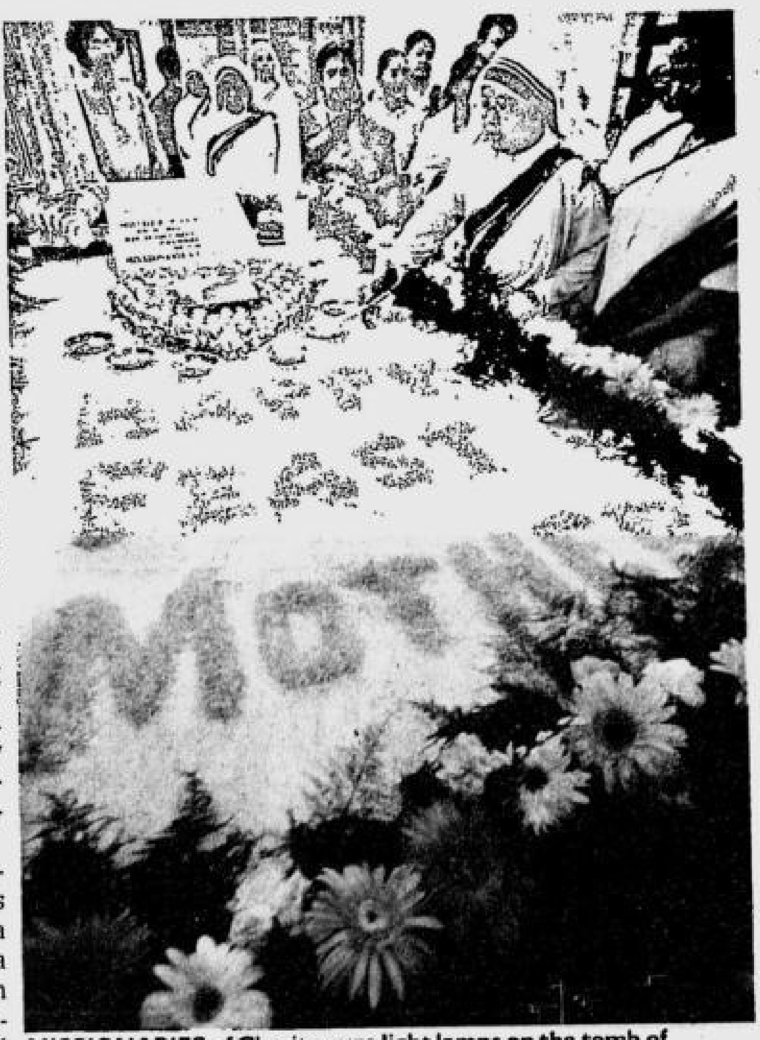
A few dozen people from a rationalist society shouted slogans outside, saying Mother Teresa should not be portrayed as a saint—reflecting criticism in some Indian circles over her opposition to birth control and abortion.

Calcutta was also painted as a pit of misery and suffering, critics argued, ignoring its long history of intellectual and artistic creativity.

Mother Teresa made Calcutta her home and opened several homes, including one for those who were old and dying and the other for destitute children.

Archbishop of Calcutta, Lucas Sircar, led a special Mass where rich and poor sat together in prayer.

As people sang hymns, Sister Nirmala, the superior general of the order, held her palms together, occasionally waved at followers.



MISSIONARIES of Charity nuns light lamps on the tomb of Mother Teresa, the founder of the order, on her 10th death anniversary which was observed as 'Happy Feast Day' in Calcutta, India, on Wednesday, Sept. 5. AP

She succeeded the ailing Mother Teresa six months before she died, aged 87, on Sept. 5, 1997.

"I am feeling deep joy and gratitude remembering Mother Teresa's presence today among us," she said as she placed a candle on the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize winner's tomb.

The doors of Mother House remained open throughout the day and hundreds of people walked in with palms pressed together, some carrying flowers.

"Mother helped me get a job and survive when there was nothing to look forward to in life," said Harihar Sahu, a blind man. "I hope she is made a saint soon."

Letters written by Mother Teresa to her colleagues and superiors over 66 years reveal she sometimes doubted God and tormented about her faith.

The collection of letters complied by an advocate for her sainthood was published on Tuesday under the title "Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light." *Reuters*

Mattel makes 3rd Chinese toys recall

NEW YORK—TOYMAKER MATtel Inc. on Tuesday announced a third recall of Chinese-made toys, saying it would take back more than 800,000 units globally that contain "impermissible" levels of lead.

In total, 522,000 US toys and 322,000 outside the United States are being recalled. The toys were shipped between Aug. 3, 2006, and July 31, 2007, the company said.

The latest recall involves three Fisher-Price toy models and eight Barbie brand playsets. No Barbie dolls were included.

Mattel instructs people to go to its website (www.service.mattel.com) to establish whether they own an affected toy. After they fill out a form and send back the affected parts, Mattel will send them replacement and bonus parts.

The recall arose out of Mattel's investigation of its toys manufactured by vendors in China. In the last five weeks, the company already had announced two recalls of millions of Chinese toys due to excessive amounts of lead paint and other dangers.

A spate of toy recalls has sparked concern over the quality of products made in China. The US House of Representatives' subcommittee on commerce, trade and consumer protection is to hold a Sept. 19 hearing on how to protect US children from imported products containing lead paint.

Lead paint has been linked to health problems in children, including brain damage.

Mattel chief executive Robert Eckert said he could not guarantee there would be no further toy recalls, but stressed that the testing of products it promised after the first major recall on Aug. 1 was now complete.

"You can never say never, that there won't be more (recalls)," said Eckert in a telephone interview on Tuesday. *Reuters*

Dinosaurs wiped out by asteroid breakup

PARIS—THE EXTINCTION OF the dinosaurs 65 million years ago can be traced to a collision between two monster rocks in the asteroid belt nearly 100 million years earlier, scientists report on Wednesday.

The smash drove a giant sliver of rock into Earth's path, eventually causing the climate-changing impact that ended the reign of the dinosaurs and enabled the rise of mammals—including, eventually, us.

Other asteroid fragments smashed into the Moon, Venus and Mars, pocking their faces with mighty craters, the US and Czech researchers believe.

Mixing skills in time travel, jigsaw-making and carbon chemistry, the trio carried out a computer simulation of the jostling among orbital rubble left from the building of the Solar System.

The sleuths were guided by an intriguing clue—a large asteroid called (298) Baptistina, which shares the same orbital track as a group of smaller rocks.

Turning the clock back, the simulation found that the Baptistina bits not only fitted together, they were also remnants of a giant parent asteroid, around 170 kilometers across, that once cruised the innermost region of the asteroid belt.

Around 160 million years ago—the best bet in a range of 140-190 million years—this behemoth was whacked by another giant some 60 km across.

From this soundless collision was born a huge cluster of rocks, including 300 bodies larger than 10 km and 140,000 bodies larger than 1 km. *AFP*

WHAT'S INSIDE

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SPORTS

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Rafa, Serena head for exits /A24

Eagles battle Maroons

EMMAN Monfort (front) and the Ateneo Blue Eagles hope to ride the momentum that started with a win over Japs Cuan and the UST Tigers. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

THE ATENEO BLUE EAGLES will be keeping this in mind when they take on the languishing University of the Philippines Maroons today in the UAAP men's basketball competition at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

And Ateneo coach Norman Black maintains that the 2 p.m. match will be no scrimmage for the Eagles' eagerly awaited showdown against rival La Salle Green Archers on Sunday.

"It's a game," said Black. "[Like Adamson], they have nothing to lose and they gave us a difficult time. UP will be the same thing if we don't come and play. It's important that we establish a certain level of play."

A victory will assure the Eagles at least a playoff for a Final Four berth.

STANDINGS	W	L
UE	12	0
La Salle	9	3
Ateneo	7	4
UST	7	5
FEU	6	6
NU	4	7
Adamson	1	10
UP	0	11

GAMES TODAY (*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
2 p.m.—Ateneo vs UP
4 p.m.—National vs Adamson

EAGLES/ A24

Two young prospects in Pacman undercard

CEBU CITY—TWO topnotch prospects from North Cotabato will be seeing action in the undercard of the Oct. 6 rematch between Filipino boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao and Marco Antonio Barrera in Las Vegas.

"I promise to prioritize these two boxers in the card," said Pacquiao. "When I fight Barrera, they will also be fighting in the undercard."

The boxers are unbeaten prospects Glenn Gonzales and Jundy Maraon.

Gonzales (6-0, 4 KOs) is an exciting toe-to-toe featherweight banger whose fight style has been likened to that of Pacquiao.

Maraon (10-0-1, 8 KOs) is a super bantamweight upstart who hits like a mule and has skills backed by a solid amateur background.

"These two fighters benefited a lot from the training program brought in by Cuban coach Espinosa," said North Cotabato vice governor Manny Piñol.

Gonzales and Maraon have been training the last two weeks in Cebu. *Salven Lagumbay, contributor*

HAIRLOSS EXPERTS IN AMERICA REVEAL FRIGHTENING FACTS

Men Going Bald Lose One Hair Every 15 Minutes!

Recent research from top trichologists in the USA reveals that the rate of a man's hairloss can reach about 35,000 hairs a year on a baldness-prone head. That means, when receding and thinning are at their peak, a man on his way to baldness is losing one hair approximately every fifteen minutes!

As most men prior to experiencing any hairloss have a total scalp cover of 100,000 to 150,000 hairs or more, a mere four disappearing every hour don't get noticed - until it's too late. Based on these figures it's easy to see how it takes only 3-5 years for a 30-year old man to be bald by the time he's 34 - if he does nothing about it.

Why is it that so many men let themselves go bald - when there's enough time at the beginning of the hairloss process to get expert advice and the right trichological treatments? It seems there are a number of reasons, the main one being unawareness of what is available at professional hair-and-scalp care centres. The best known is Svenson, which has been in the business of controlling hairloss for over twenty-five years across Asia and around the world. Svenson is where people go when they don't want to go bald.

If it really disturbs you that you're losing one hair every fifteen minutes, it makes a lot of sense to call Svenson for an appointment. It costs nothing to have a qualified trichologist analyze your hair and scalp. You'll learn the cause of your hairloss and what the right treatments can do. And you'll discover how your hair and scalp can be optimized for maximum growth potential.

Don't wait another 15 minutes and one more hair, call Svenson now for a no-cost consultation today. Telephone 892-4247/ 234-0851(Cebu).

Without treatment this man will likely be totally bald in just 2-3 years.

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Milo elims to Naga City this Sunday

AFTER SORTIES THROUGH THE VISAYAS, the 31st National Milo Marathon shifts its course to Luzon in the Bicol region with its first stop on Sunday in Naga City hosted by Mayor Jesse M. Robredo.

HERMAN Suizo, the 1997 Milo Marathon champion, joined the 21K race of the 31st National Milo Marathon Iloilo leg last Sunday. Suizo, 47, placed 9th with a time of 1:23:05.

The Visayas elimination runs, which visited Tagbilaran, Tacloban, Cebu, Dumaguete, Roxas City, and Iloilo last Sunday, attracted 42,253 runners, including luminaries like Senator Pia Cayetano in Cebu on Aug. 12 and Rep. Raul Gonzalez Jr. in Iloilo last weekend.

According to local organizer Pedro Lee, chair of the Naga City Sports Commission, 4,000 runners coming from the six provinces comprising the Bicol Region are expected to answer the starting gun at Plaza Quezon at 6 a.m. to be fired off by Robredo.

The Naga City leg is the 15th leg in this year's 24-leg Milo Marathon nationwide elimination run held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, and the Department of Tourism. The race is one of the highlights of the feast of Our Lady of Peñafrancia.

The top three finishers in the men's and women's divisions of the 21K elimination run will received P10,000, P6,000, and P4,000, respectively, plus trophies and will advance to the 42K national finals slated on Nov. 18 at the Quirino Grandstand.

"I expect an exciting race because top runners in the region are seeing action for the top prize and the opportunity to compete in the 42 kilometers Milo national finals" said AVP for Milo Sports Pat Goc- Ong.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO
JESS YUSON

MARK Fernando (left) and Jonel Ababa continue to pace the grueling eliminations for the Philippine team.

Ababa, Fernando cop RP golf slots

By Musong R. Castillo

SILANG, CAVITE—DECEIVINGLY long and a wizard around the greens, reed-thin Jonel Ababa again stood out on another testing day at The Riviera's Langer layout to take a piece of the lead with two rounds left in the NGAP National Qualifiers.

The 23-year-old Ababa, the first winner of the National Caddies' Open, fired a two-over-par 73 to pull even with fellow Calatagan bet Mark Fernando as they all but put a lock on two of six RP Team slots being contested.

Fernando, one of the foremost products of the NCO program being run by the Philippine Amateur Golf Development Foundation of Tommy Manotoc, stayed afloat despite a 76 mainly caused by two triple bogeys on a humid day.

The frontrunners have identical 108-hole 434 total going into the last two days of the marathon eliminations.

Also virtually assured of a place in the RP team taking part in three important international tournaments this year was Ferdinand Aunzo, who fired a 75 to be in solo third at 435.

Anthony Fernando, Mark's cousin who held the lead in the first two rounds at the Couples course last week, still couldn't check his slide, turning in a fourth-straight over-par card – a 75 – to be in fourth at 438.

The race for the last two slots became interesting, with amateur ace Jay Bayron still trying to regain sharp form and Michael Bibat, the big Asian Games bronze medal winner, in a heated battle.

Bibat shared the day's best round with Ababa and pulled even with Bayron, who shot a 74, at 439, just six strokes better than the seventh-running Gene Bondoc, who fired a 73 to stay alive.

Asiad champ Valle enters SMC 10-ball

VALLE

GOMEZ

GANDY VALLE, THE 1998 Asian Games 9-ball doubles gold medalist and Roberto Gomez, the 2007 Norway Battle of Scandinavia 9-ball winner, head the cast in the first San Miguel Corporation (SMC) Scotch Doubles 10-ball event starting on Sept. 19 at the Elbowroom/Metro Walk in Pasig City.

The 30-year-old Valle will be teaming up with either Jomar Ocampo or Michael Feliciano in the three-day event staking P140,000 to the winning pair.

"I'm already preparing hard for this tournament," said Valle in Filipino.

Gomez, 28, will be partnered by either Carlo Biado or Mike Takayama.

"Skill is of the essence in 10-ball, unlike the 9-ball where there's a bit of luck," said Gomez, who like Valle is a member of the Bugsy promotion stable.

The pair of Antonio Gabica, and Renemar David, the 2006 Sydney World Junior quarter-finalist, also signified their intention to play.

Other entries include the pair of 2007 Korean Pro tour 9-ball champion Joven Bustamante and former snooker ace Benjie Guevarra and Negros Billiard Stable stalwarts Lee Vann Corteza and Ricky Zerna.

For details, call Jojo Santos at 09157008000, Valle 09169589897 and Jharome Pena at 09183942779.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Spring Oil dribblers trounce Vietnamese

MALABON City Mayor Tito Oreta gets set to toss the ball before the Malabon/Spring Cooking Oil-Vietnam game while Spring team owner and NBC president Tac Padilla looks on.

SPRING COOKING OIL ROUTED the visiting Vietnam national basketball team, 93-71, Tuesday in a goodwill game at the Malabon Sports Complex.

The Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla raced to a 33-22 lead at the end of the first quarter and never looked back as veterans Nino Marquez and Larry Rodriguez tallied 20 points each.

The Vietnamese, coached by former Spring mentor Ricky Magallanes, still groped for form as they stepped up their preparation for the Southeast Asian Games set this December in Thailand.

Malabon City Mayor Tito Oreta made the ceremonial toss and then went on to watch the home team plaster the visitors from start to finish.

But Tien Bang led the Vietnamese with 12 points while Tran Boan Mark Nguyen and Nguyen San Toh added 10 each.

"I'm happy with the boys' (Spring) showing," said Padilla, who is helping bankroll the Spring-NBC Selection's trip to Taiwan next month.

The scores:

MALABON-SPRING 93—Marquez 20, Rodriguez 20, Epondulan 14, De Castro 13, Reyes 11, Kalaw 6, Tajonera 4, Cuenca 3, Villamin 3, Inigo 2, Aguilar 2

VIETNAM 71—Bu 12, Guyen 10, Tran 10, Trieu 8, Soam 8, Pham 6, Robignet 4, Tan 4, Nguyen T. 3, Du 2.

Quarters: 33-22, 51-41, 72-61, 93-71

Rivilla still MPLFA head

RIVILLA

BUSINESSWOMAN Cathy Rivilla was unanimously re-elected to a two-year term as president of the Muntilupa, Parañaque and Las Piñas Football Association during its general assembly meeting at the Sphere Gym in Muntinlupa City last weekend.

Also elected to the MPLFA board were Ernie Nierras, Wool Reyes, Mari Duarte, Ric Venus, Cyril Dofitas, Jojo Durian and Chito Manuel, who will also serve for two years.

Following her reelection and based on the MPLFA constitution and by-laws, Rivilla appointed Manuel as vice president, Reyes, general secretary; Venus, assistant general secretary; and Duarte, treasurer.

Rivilla, co-team manager of the national women's team, is also an official of the Philippine National Women's Football Association.

The 37-year-old Rivilla is one of two Filipino women match commissioners—the other being former Philippine Olympic Committee president Cristy Ramos—accredited by the International Football Federation or Fifa.

From 12 clubs, the MPLFA has grown to over 30 members.

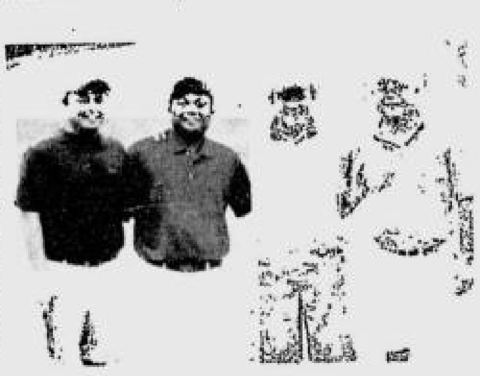
The MPLFA girls squad won last year's National Under-17 tournament.

SPORTSWATCH

KidzHoops All-Sundays tourney set

THE ALL-SUNDAYS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT FOR KIDS' LEVELING day is set on Sept. 9 at the Dumlao Gym along Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City at 2 p.m. Registration opens at 1 p.m. The tournament proper starts Sept. 30 at the RFM Gym. The KidzHoops league now has three age group divisions, the 10 under, 12 under and 14 under. Boys and girls ages 8 to 14 are encouraged to join. The kids are assured of four league games and one tourney game. For inquiries, log-on to www.kidzhoops.com or call 3710639.

HOLE-IN-ONE: Mar Maron (third from left) of the Royal Okra Golf Club recently made an ace on the 176-yard hole No. 4 of Valley's South course using a 3-wood. With him are RJ Baretto, Joe Tayawa and Joey Razon.



First stag derby at Roligon today

ROLIGON MEGA COCKPIT'S FIRST EVENT FOR THE 2007 STAGFIGHTING season unfolds today via the Stag Festival 5-stag derby. The 2-stag elimination round starts at 4 p.m. Round two sizzles on Saturday while the championship round takes place on Monday. Competitors include Nelson Uy, Meliton Cuadra, Pax Cabrera, Ricky Peleya, James Uy and Raymond Burgos.

SJC Anniversary derby set Sept. 10

THE NUMBER OF CONFIRMED ENTRIES BALLOONED TO 146 AS OF YESterday in connection with the SJC Anniversary 6-stag derby slated Sept. 10, 12 and 15 at San Juan Coliseum. The event dangles a guaranteed prize of P2 million. Host and SJC owner Rodolfo Pineda pegged the entry fee at P15,000. Meanwhile, the SJC Cockers Club 5-stag derby series starts on Saturday.

FOR THE MOST HAPPENING COLLEGE ORGS AND BARKADAS

CLIMBERS: Pride and joy are etched on the faces of the winners of the Cali Party Responsibly Series wall climbing competition held Aug. 18 at the Power Up gym, Silver City, Pasig. The Cali Silver Cup went to the champion team while individual medals were awarded.

Clyde and Ezy, Mark win

CLYDE AND EZY OF RMF CHIEF OFFICER Cyrus Hao and Mark of Harry Soriano turned back their respective rivals start of the 2007 RMF Challenge Cup Tuesday at the Reyes gym in Mandaluyong.

Showing steely resolve, Clyde and Ezy repulsed Jethro of VP Dave Collina, 84-71, to begin its title campaign in the event supported by Royand Machester Five Trading Corporation and organized by Metro Basketball under Commissioner Nilo Fernandez.

Not to be outdone, Mark beat Apexabba Deo of Dennis Abarra in overtime, 55-52, while Gigi Mendoza's Twinchel edged Lauderics Cavaliers of Eric Magtabog, 45-43.

The event's opening was graced by TV personalities led by Ruffa Mae Quinto, Rustom Padilla and PBA star Johnny Abbarientos.

The PCC cheer dancers highlighted the opening with a breathtaking performance in front of the big crowd.

Games are held every Tuesday and Friday at the Reyes gym.

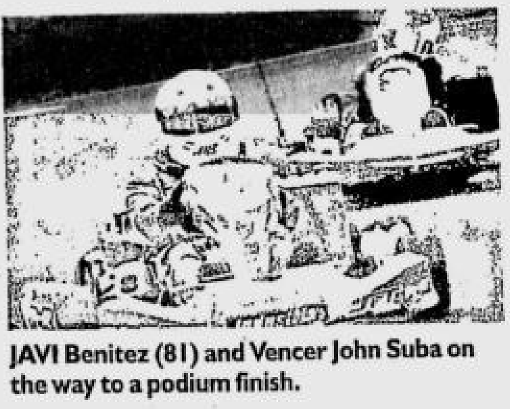
Metro Basketball is the leading organizer of corporate basketball. For details, call 4802093 or text 09179948408.

RP bets deliver Asian karting medals

THE JET RACING TEAM DELIVERED FOR the Philippines in the third leg of the 2007 Asian Karting Open Championship recently at the Sentul International Circuit in Bogor, Indonesia.

The Filipinos bagged three titles, a runner-up and a third place finish.

Team captain Javi Benitez, a Grade 7 student of Xavier School, powered Jet Racing's title haul by topping both the ROK Junior and the Formula 125 Junior events against foreign rivals Rio Haryanto and Senna Noor of Indonesia and Mitchell Gilbert of Malaysia.



JAVI Benitez (81) and Vencer John Suba on the way to a podium finish.

Christian Gaddi copped the third title for Jet Racing, backed by Bingo Bonanza Corp., Henry Sy Jr. of SM companies, Willy Ocier of Pacific Online Systems Corp., Industria.com and Belle Corp.; in the Cadet 60 class. Vei-Ar Suba made it a 1-2 finish for the Philippines.

Vencer John Suba, the current ROK Junior pacesetter of the local series, took third place in the Formula 125 Juniors class and fourth in the ROK Juniors division.

Another Jet Racing member, Franco Reyes, managed to grab seventh place in the 14-man Mini-ROK cast.

Influential Marho supports Lim's anti-bookie campaign

MANILA MAYOR ALFREDO LIM'S RElentless drive against illegal bookies in local horse racing got a boost recently as top officials of the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners Inc. (Marho) expressed their all-out support to the renewed campaign against the illegal betting trade.

In a recent dialog held at Manila City Hall, Mandaluyong City Mayor and Marho president Benhur Abalos and other Marho officials, thanked Lim for boosting the anti-bookie drive in Manila, immediately resulting to noticeable gains for the local horse racing industry.

"We would like to express our appreciation to Mayor Lim for intensifying the campaign against the illegal bookies, coming in the heels of a huge drop in regulated horse racing sales over the past month," said Abalos.

Last week, Lim ordered the renewed crackdown on illegal bookies in Manila.

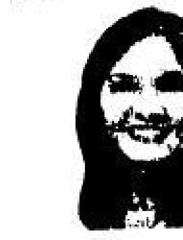
RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Vivere (3), Ocean Deep (5), Million Dollar (1)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Carry Over (6), Mean Machine (1), Patricia's pet (4), Mahogany (5)
Race 3—(Tri)—Regent Skipper (3), When We're Flying (2), Royal Fleet (4)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Mary Jane Bomb (1), Coo
Turner/Tatanka (3), Gelay's Charm (2), Smooth
Strike (6)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Sound of Silence (4), Sunlin
(5), Sharp Cookie (6), Saintly Path (2)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Arctic Desert (1), Big Spende
(4), Mighty Mare (5), Rapid Fire (3)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Camberwell Beauty (1), Lord Gol
(3), Common Goal (6), Take Ten (7)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Bootlegs (1), Scud Mis
sile (3), Batang Wesrside (8), Deep Rising/Dev
Rising (7), Sutter's Royal (10), Storm (4)

Kobe back in a flash this time

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

WHEN HE FIRST came to Manila nine years ago, Kobe Bryant was only 19 years old and a sophomore in the NBA. (*See related story on A24*)

It was August, I distinctly remember, and his 20th birthday was only a few days away.

Kobe was a big, big hit in Manila. He made the strongest impact among Pinoy NBA fans because he was game, had absolutely no airs about him and was very accommodating.

At the slightest prodding, Kobe would show off his moves, his high-flying slam dunks, to insatiable fans who couldn't seem to have enough him. He even played one-on-one with our PBA cagers.

***

Kobe was a publicist's dream. People went crazy everywhere he went. He adored children and would go out of his way to entertain them.

He made an appearance at Don Bosco High School in Makati where he played with the kids, ala Globe Trotter, danced with them and even dined with them. Back then, he had plenty of time to spend with his Pinoy fans.

As the publicist hired by Adidas, the brand he was endorsing at the time, I got to know Kobe from up close even if he didn't get to know me. I know, for example, that he often exasperated the local security assigned to him because of his soft spot for children.

When it came to kids, he just couldn't say no or ignore their request, even if he had to break security rules. When his three-day visit ended, the question everyone asked was, when he would return.

***

Yesterday, I attended the press conference hosted by Nike—the new brand Kobe is endorsing—at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, to compare the Kobe '98 edition with that of the latest model.

I remember the excitement we all felt when we first caught sight of him—afro hairdo and all—at the airport on his arrival in '98. There was something about him then that made him so charismatic. I wondered if the Nike staff felt that too.

Kobe himself said that he has gone full circle since his first visit to Manila, winning three titles, among other things.

Not surprisingly, we were told that Kobe had requested that he be with kids during his one-day stay here in Manila. Kobe spent about 30 minutes answering questions from the media.

***

FLASHBACK, 1998: Almost all the training participants at the Don Bosco had left when I noticed a teenage girl who had lost one arm sitting forlornly with a man who looked like her father.

She said she had waited all day for a chance to have her photo taken with Kobe, a lifelong dream, but didn't have the nerve to approach him.

The girl introduced herself as Kathryn, a varsity basketball player from De La Salle Zobel. By this time, the training session was over, Kobe was very tired and was on his way to the vehicle that would take him back to the hotel.

But when he heard about Kathryn, Kobe stopped dead on his tracks, took a 180-degree turn, returned to the court and immediately approached her for a photo session, a brief chat and a bite. That's the Kobe Bryant I want to remember.

PSC favors revival of PNG

By June Navarro

RAMIREZ

SHELVED FOR a decade, the Philippine National Games may soon be back as testing ground for new talents.

Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez has broached the idea of reviving the PNG in the wake of Executive Order 651 that called for the strengthening of the agency's grassroots development program.

Ramirez said that the grassroots program should culminate in a multi-sport event such as the PNG to measure the abilities and skills of the athletes discovered through EO651.

Consigned to oblivion after the end of the term of President Fidel V. Ramos, the PNG was last held in 1997 in Cebu City with the help of local government units.

"If you ask me, I think the PNG should be revived," said Ramirez. "The grassroots development program should culminate in an event and the PNG fits the bill."

The PSC top honcho, however, doesn't want to preempt the potential of EO651 and vowed to implement only the instructions of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the said directive.

"For now, the PSC will just lay down the groundwork for its implementation," said Ramirez.

With the agency's Philippine Sports Institute as lead organization, Ramirez plans to create a task force he will chair and a representative from the Philippine Olympic Committee as co-chair.

AMA, UM dispute 2nd title slot today

DEFENDING CHAMPION AMA TAKES on University of Manila in a playoff for the last title slot today in the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) men's basketball tournament at the San Juan gym.

The Titans nullified the Hawks twice-to-beat advantage via an 86-62 triumph last Sunday that kept their bid for a second straight championship stint alive.

The winner will take on STI, which crushed San Sebastian-Cavite, 92-61, in the semifinals, in a best-of-three championships series.

The Hawks are expected to come back fighting since they are gunning for a return to the finals after winning five straight titles from 2001 to 2005 while setting a record 81-game victory streak.

Onofre Napiza, Frank Bonus and Russen Assuncion are the main men for UM coach Loreto Tolentino. The 6-foot-3 Napiza won the Rookie of the Year last season.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Sportswriter Pasco dies at 26

CHRISTIAN ACE Pasco, who covered the sports beat for Abante and Abante Tonight, died Tuesday night of complications caused by severe asthma attack at the Marikina Valley Medical Center.

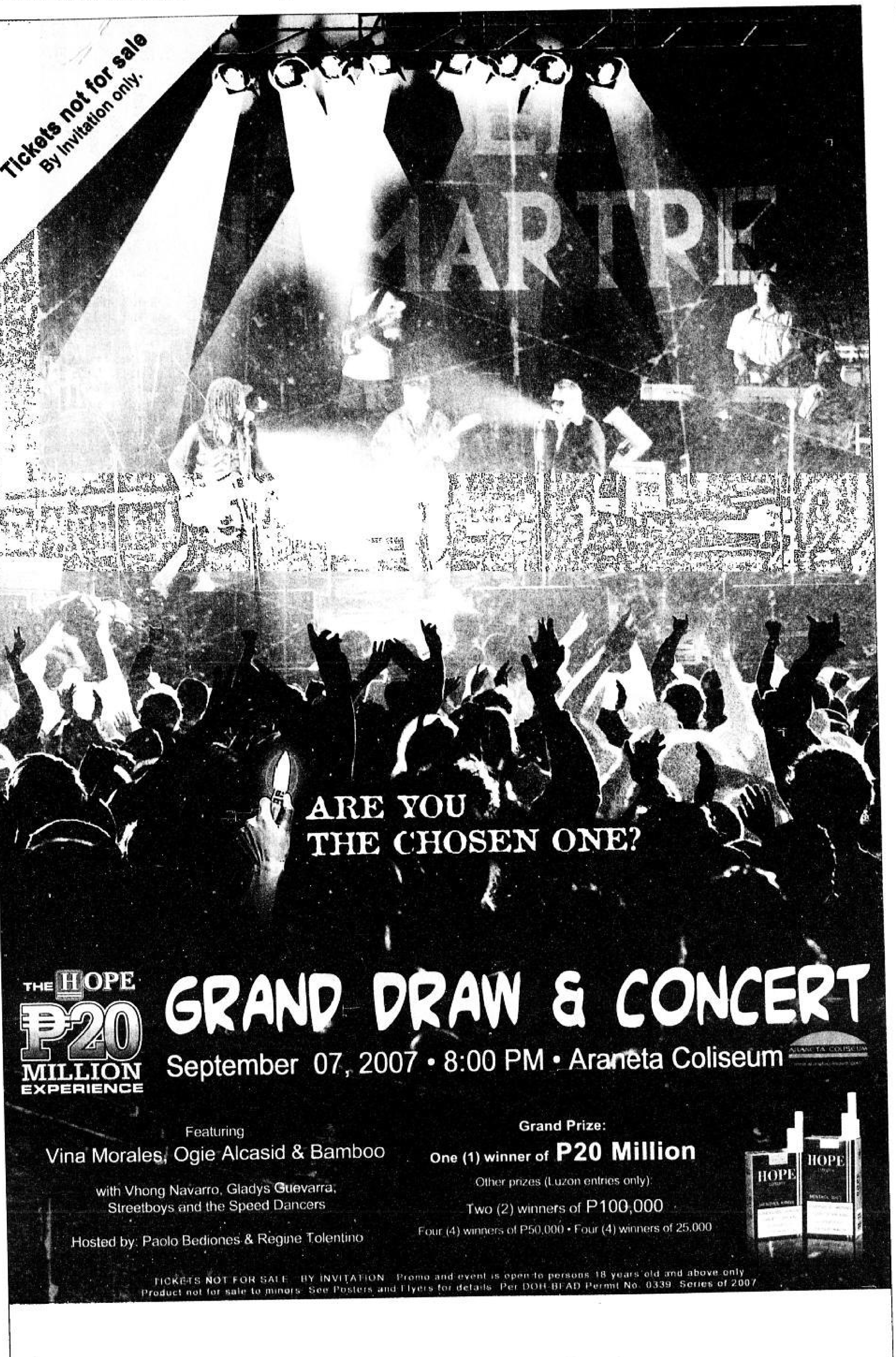
He was 26.

PASCO

The remains of Pasco, who wrote for University of Santo Tomas' campus paper The Varsitarian before he joined the sportswriting community, lie in state at the Paket Santiago Funeral Homes besides the Our Lady of the Abandoned (OLA) Church in Barangay San Roque, Marikina City.

Interment will be announced later.

Pasco, whose shy, soft-spoken demeanor was a stark contrast to the vivid and colorful way by which he protrayed his coverages in his articles, is survived by wife Jean, 1 year-old son Ace Jared, parents Rodolfo and Salvacion and sisters Cherry Grace and Crystal Anne.



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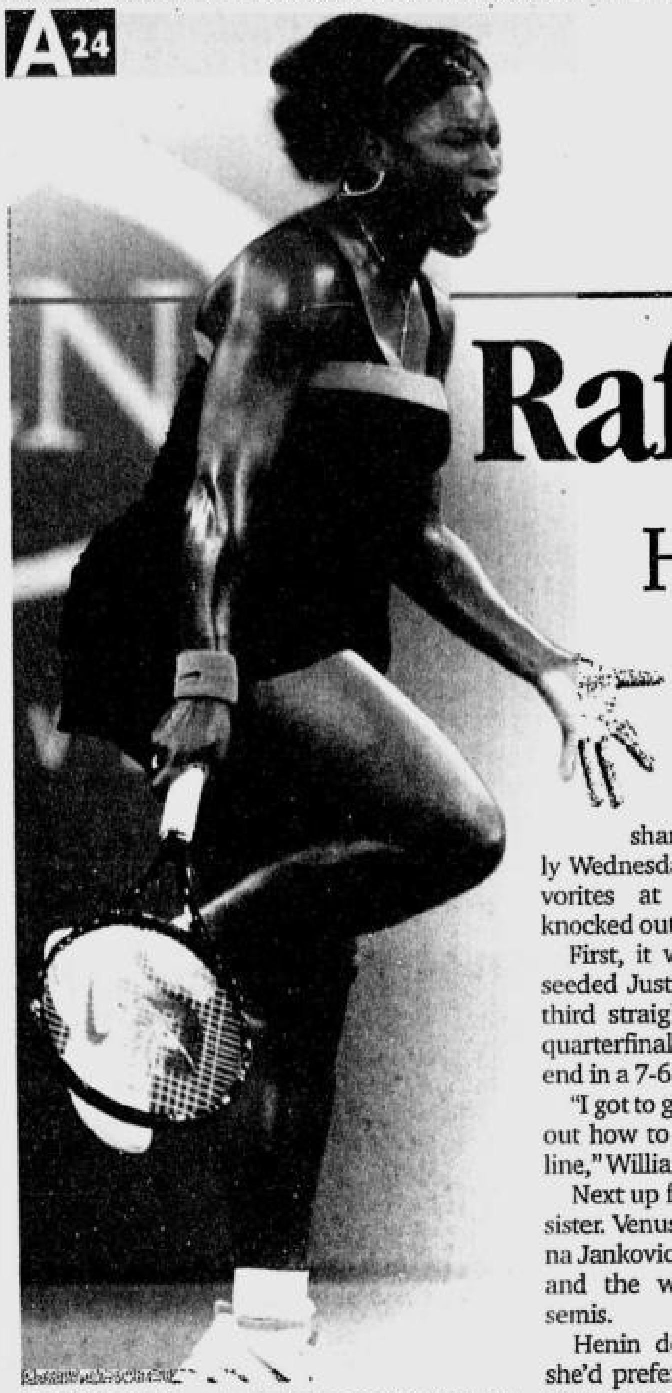
SPORTS



SERENA Williams feels she has to figure out a way to beat Justine Henin. AFP

Rafa, Serena head for exits

Henin, Ferrer send home US Open fan favorites

NEW YORK—SCRAP that Venus vs Serena matchup at the US Open. Cancel Rafa vs Roger too.

The tournament took a sharp twist Tuesday—and early Wednesday—when a pair of fan favorites at Flushing Meadows got knocked out.

First, it was Serena Williams. Top-seeded Justine Henin beat her for the third straight time in a Grand Slam quarterfinal, making it look easy at the end in a 7-6 (3), 6-1 victory.

"I got to go back and study and figure out how to beat her. That's it. Bottom line," Williams said.

Next up for Henin might be Serena's sister. Venus Williams plays No. 3 Jelena Jankovic in the quarters Wednesday, and the winner gets Henin in the semis.

Henin does not need to say who she'd prefer to play: she's 1-7 against Venus, 7-0 against Jankovic.

"Every match is a final for me now," Henin said. "If I have to play Venus, it will be a good challenge for me to play both sisters in the same tournament."

A lot of tennis fans were looking forward to seeing Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer meet in a third straight Grand Slam final. That won't happen now—15th-seeded David Ferrer upset the second-seeded Nadal, 6-7 (3), 6-4, 7-6 (4), 6-2, in a fourth-round match that ended at 1:50 a.m.

"Sure there is disappointment for me, but that is tennis," Nadal said.

The lower deck at Arthur Ashe Stadium was still nearly full when Nadal's last shot sailed long at 1:50 a.m. It came close to the latest ending at the US Open—back in 1993, Mats Wilander finished off Mikael Pernfors at 2:26 a.m.

It capped a day that also saw a player lose a point when a ball fell out of his pocket, another complain about center court TV screens and one of the wildest outfits in Open history.

Trying for his fourth straight Open title, Federer was to play No. 5 Andy Roddick on Wednesday night.

Earlier Tuesday, No. 3 Novak Djokovic reached the Open quarterfinals for the first time by beating No. 23 Juan Monaco, 7-5, 7-6 (2), 6-7 (6), 6-1.

After his win, Djokovic talked about the Nadal-Federer history.

"Tennis needs this rivalry," he said. "But on the other hand, the people are not paying attention to the other players. I'm one of those players in that smaller group behind which is trying to break that. Break it through and make this group of two a little bit bigger."

Monaco was serving in the third-set tiebreaker when the ball he'd put in his pocket in case of a fault slipped out. It was the second time in the match that happened, automatically costing him the point. *AP*

NADAL: Conquered REUTERS

Mickelson backs out of BMW golf championship

LEMONT, ILLINOIS—PHIL MICKELSON withdrew Tuesday from the BMW Championship, one day after threatening not to play over a conflict he had with PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem over issues he wouldn't explain.

"This decision was not an easy one to make, and in no way is meant as disrespectful to the tour or 'sending a message' to anyone," Mickelson said in a statement. "I've talked for weeks about needing to find a balance between my game, my business affairs and my family, and now is the time for me to take some time off."

Mickelson was playing a corporate outing with sponsor Bearing Point in the Chicago area and could not immediately reached for comment.

If all the best players are going to compete together in these PGA Tour Playoffs, it looks as though it won't happen until the fourth and final event next week at the Tour Championship.

Tiger Woods skipped the first week at The Barclays, saying his body and mind needed a break from back-to-back victories at a World Golf Championship and the PGA Tour Championship. Ernie Els and Scott Verplank skipped last week at the Deutsche Bank Championship.

Mickelson had planned to miss the third event, and winning in Boston while paired with Woods in the background gave him a platform to air some of his complaints. Without prompting, he mentioned on NBC Sports after his two-shot victory that he had made several suggestions to Finchem that were not acted upon. *AP*

France trips Italy; Spain, Greece also triumph

MADRID, SPAIN—TONY PARKER POURED in 36 points Tuesday and Group D leader France beat Italy, 69-62, handing the Olympic runner-up its second loss at the European Championship.

At Granada, Serbia's Milan Gurovic heaved a three-pointer from half-court to force overtime, but Greece prevailed, 68-67. Also in Group A, Russia won its second straight, dominating last-minute qualifier Israel, 90-56.

Lithuania moved into the second round with a 95-75 win over Group C rival Czech Republic (0-2) before Germany (2-0) routed Turkey (0-2), 79-49, behind 24 points from Dirk Nowitzki.

Pau Gasol had 26 points and nine rebounds to lead world champion Spain over Latvia, 93-77, in Sevilla, where Croatia (1-1) beat Portugal (0-2), 90-68, in another Group B game.

In the other Group D match, Slovenia (2-0) advanced with a 70-52 win over Poland.

At Alicante, Parker scored 13 of France's first 17 points and Les Bleus rallied from a 7-0 deficit to get within three to start the second quarter. But as Parker and France quieted, Italy build its biggest lead of the game, 33-24.

After cutting the deficit to five by intermission, France opened the second half with a 6-0 run to take its first lead, 37-36 thanks to two Parker free throws after Andrea Crosario was issued a technical foul for slamming the ball into the base of the basketball pole.

Parker scored France's next 10 points to give it a 47-41 advantage that Italy closed to 51-47 with the San Antonio Spurs guard finishing the final two minutes of the third quarter on the bench.

Italy scored six straight to start the fourth, reclaiming the lead, which it traded back-and-forth until Tariq Kirksay hit a three-pointer with three minutes remaining to put France ahead for good, 63-60. *AP*

Nine years later, Kobe goes from star to super

By Francis T. J. Ochoa

TOWARD THE END OF A PRESS conference that had the feel of a monthly fan club general assembly, Kobe Bryant cocked his head slightly to the right to ponder a question: How different was the Kobe Bryant who visited the country nine years ago from the Kobe Bryant who was fielding questions inside a posh Makati hotel ballroom yesterday?

A well-timed, split-second, PR-polished pause followed, just enough for the whir of video recorders and the chorus of exploding flashbulbs to capture the profile of the 6-foot-6 basketball superstar in serious contemplation.

"I had facial hair [then]," he said. The predictable round of laughter followed.

Actually, it was more than just follicle growth on the face that separated the Kobe of 1998 from the Kobe of 2007.

The Kobe of 1998 was the genial, trying-to-please-everyone sophomore who stole out of his room past his busload of bodyguards for a walk in a Makati mall and spent more than an hour engaging the press in a question-and-answer portion.

Three championships, a handful of scoring titles, several All-Star appearances, a legal controversy heard around the world and a Team USA stint later, the Los Angeles Lakers superstar had but 20-plus minutes to spare with journalists—a consequence of being more than two-and-a-half hours late for the press conference.

Had he been a player of lesser stature, the crowd at the Makati Shangri-La ballroom would have morphed into a mob. But this was Kobe Bryant, the one-time hoop wunderkind-turned-franchise player.

He was part-Michael Jordan: "The thing that drives me most is the will to win."

He was part Charles Barkley: "The important thing to remember is that when people talk about role models, we assume that these role models must be perfect. But nobody is perfect. The definition of a role model should be someone we learn from. We look at the mistakes those role models make and learn from them, not duplicate them."

And he was part-Oprah: "I think that we should live every day like it's the last and enjoy the moment. As a kid, it seems like you'll live forever. But I think kids should learn to enjoy every moment."

And he was also a little of Drew Carey. When asked what constituted a diet program that has seen him lose 20 pounds, he quipped: "Grass." And asked by a journalist, whose son skipped school to see him, what part of him was worthy of emulation by young children all over the world, he said: "Apart from ditching school?" a self-depreciating comment that winged his decision to skip college and jump to the pros from the high school playgrounds.

And when asked which players he would surround himself with if he was the LA Lakers owner, he replied: "You mean assuming I was Bill Gates? The whole of Team USA."

But most of all, he was all Kobe Bryant. The flamboyant, high-leaping, silky-shooting, shoot-first-ask-questions-later superstar who wrangled himself out of a legal mess by embracing basketball until he breathed it, until he became the ultra-talented swingman who could carry an entire storied franchise on his shoulders.

A lot of the player he has become started out by plunging into a merciless killer regimen he refers to as the "Blackout."

"Because if you go through it, there's a chance you will black out," he explained.

It's a regimen he was set to share with young cagers yesterday at the PhilSports Arena, right after doing charity work at The Fort.

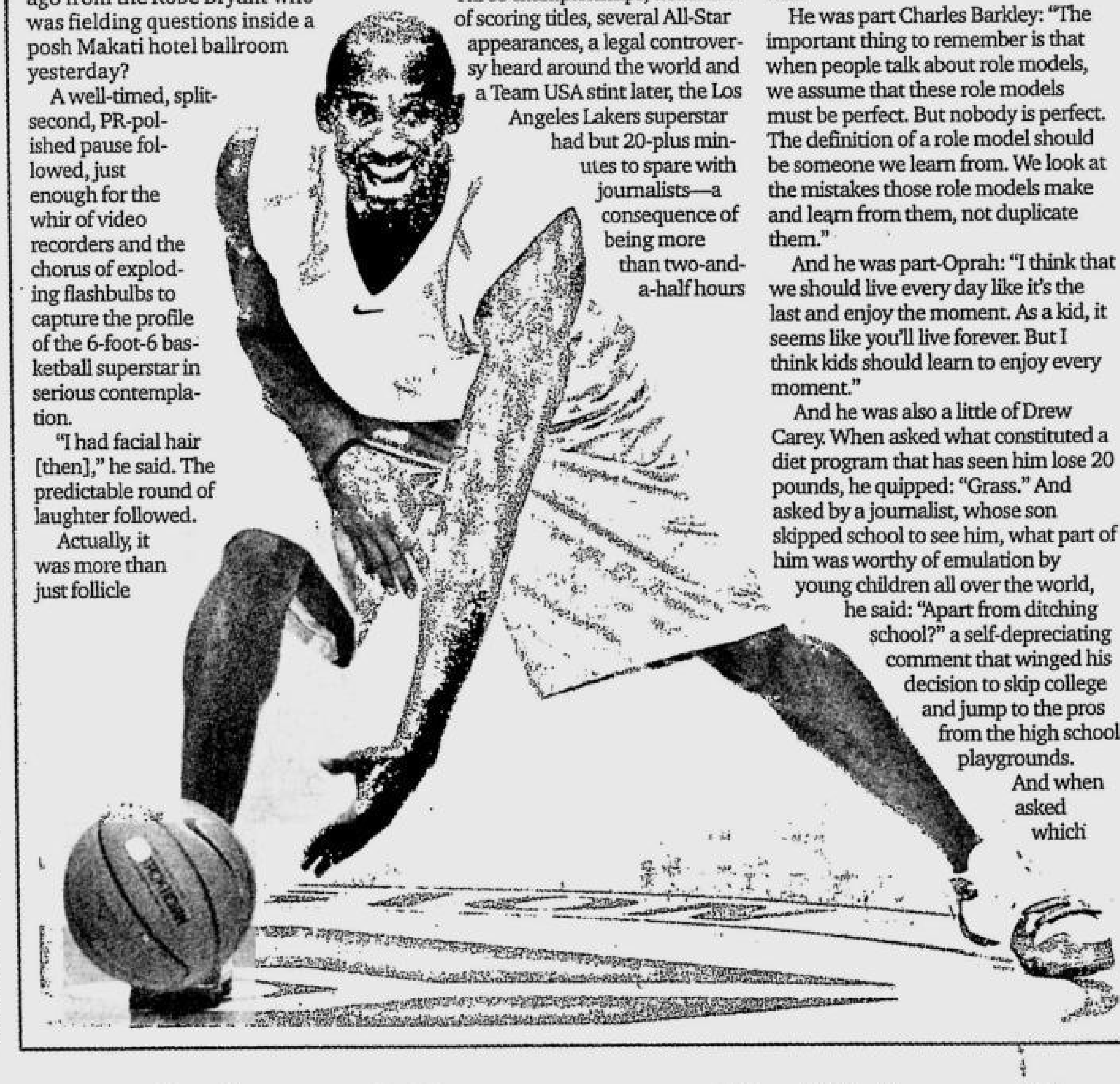
"Basketball is such a fun sport and to get the most out of it, the key is working hard," he said.

Next up for Bryant is a continued stint with Team USA, where he leads a bunch of pride-pricked cagers out to reinstall the United States as the Olympic champion in Beijing in 2008.

"We put a lot of emphasis on winning the Olympic gold," he said. "We're preparing like we're playing for the NBA finals. Right now, that's the important thing. When we go back to our teams, winning the NBA title is the most important thing."

This year's Kobe—who hopes to go by the moniker Black Mamba someday—is one of the leaders of that team. A far cry from the hang-loose, carefree type of guy who slapped hands with the press on his way out of a press conference nine years ago.

"When I first came here, I was 19," Bryant said. "Now I'm 29 and all grown up and I've won three championships and played for Team USA. It feels like I've come full circle."



Eagles take on winless Maroons; Bulldogs battle Falcons

From page A21

Running third at 7-4, the Eagles are jockeying for position against La Salle (9-3), defending champion Santo Tomas Tigers (7-5) and the Far Eastern Tamaraws (6-6).

"We don't want to end up in a tie with UST and FEU because they beat us by a bigger margin, than we beat them," said Black. "The quotient system doesn't really save us right now so we really have to win."

In the second game, the National Bulldogs will try to keep their slim Final Four chances alive versus the Adamson Falcons at 4 p.m.

If the Eagles secure their fourth straight victory, the Katipunan-based crew will also remain in the running for the twice-to-beat semifinal bonus.

"All the teams are a lot tougher," said Black. "You really have to be on top of your game. Otherwise, other teams may take advantage of you."

It's the reason the Eagles have been guarded in predicting a repeat of their 79-55 rout of the Maroons in the first round.

"I think we have to start concentrating on the fact that if we want to get to the Final Four, we have to keep a certain level of play," said Black.

Last Saturday, forward Nonoy Baclao delivered his finest performance in his debut season with 14 points, seven rebounds and three blocks to pace the Eagles to an 81-68 triumph versus Adamson.

Just like the Maroons, the Falcons are out of semifinal contention with a woeful 1-10 card. The Bulldogs' chances also started to fade after three straight losses that pushed them down to sixth place at 4-7.

Jasmine W. Payo

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August inflation eases further to 2.4%

Rate seen staying below gov't target of 4-5%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE INFLATION RATE FOR August eased further to 2.4 percent from 2.6 percent in July as nearly all commodity groups registered slower price increases during the month, the National Statistics Office reported yesterday.

This brought the average inflation for the first eight months of the year to 2.6 percent, still much lower than the government's target of between 4 and 5 percent.

Core inflation, which excludes volatile prices of selected food and energy items, stood at 2.9 percent, slower than the 3 percent recorded in July. Average core inflation for January to August stood at 3 percent.

Prices of food, beverage and tobacco rose an average 2.5 percent, slower than the previous month's 2.8; housing and repair, 1.2 percent from 1.5

AUGUST/B2

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▨ **Maynilad soon** to exit rehab /B3

China's Shimao eyes 2 BCDA lots in Boni

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CHINA'S REAL ESTATE GIANT SHANGhai Shimao group is vying for a joint venture with the Bases Conversion Development Authority on two properties for the development of "high-end, mixed-use" projects.

Narciso L. Abaya, BCDA president and chief executive, said the properties included the 7.4-hectare lot that Shimao was initially interested in and where it was planning to invest some $2 billion in hotels, condominiums, offices and a commercial complex.

Abaya said Shimao was also looking at an area covering 35-40 hectares known as the Jusmag housing area from which retired Armed Forces officials have been evicted following an ownership dispute.

He said the Chinese firm was expected to submit a project proposal for the 7.4-hectare lot by November while another proposal for the larger parcel of land was expected next year.

Abaya clarified that joint venture agreements for both properties would go through a bidding or a modified bidding such as a Swiss challenge, following a government policy that requires a competitive process for the selection of government partners.

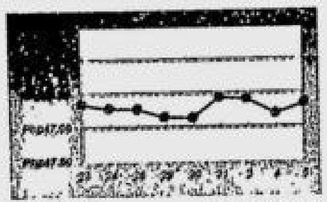
"The National Economic and Development Authority is currently working on the terms of reference on how to enter into (joint ventures like this)," he added.

The Jusmag (Joint United States Military Assistance Group) area—so-called because it was originally a housing project for the

CHINA'S/B5

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



AUGUST SEPTEMBER

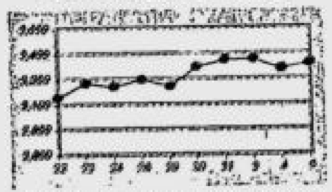
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 46.64 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 5, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks close higher on Wall St. rise

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.91-PERCENT higher yesterday following gains on Wall Street where data showing modest growth in the manufacturing sector gave investors a lift, dealers said.

They said fresh optimism that the US Federal Reserve will trim interest rates later this month also bolstered sentiment.

The composite index rose 30.05 points to 3,342.35. Gainers beat losers 73 to 37, while 52 stocks ended flat. A total of 2.7 billion shares worth P3.3 billion changed hands.

"The market again tracked US stocks while investors also have discounted the subprime mortgage concerns," said Jose Vistan at AB Capital Securities.

But Vistan said investors would continue to be cautious in the run-up to the Federal Reserve's policy meeting on Sept. 18.

"Investors are becoming very selective and are going into quality stocks rather than betting on speculative issues," he said.

STOCKS/B5

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
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SEC Memorandum Circular No. 3
Series of 2007

To : **ALL CONCERNED**
Subject : **AMENDMENT OF REPORTORIAL REQUIREMENTS**

In line with its continuing program to foster efficient business operations, the Commission, in its meeting on August 31, 2007, resolved to amend its rules on the filing of reports with the Market Regulation Department (MRD), Corporation Finance Department (CFD), Non-Traditional Securities and Instruments Department (NTD) and Company Registration and Monitoring Department (CRMD).

The amendments involve the discontinuation of some filings and the modification of the format, content and frequency of submission of certain reports, as described in the succeeding paragraphs.

Part A
MARKET REGULATION DEPARTMENT

Section 1. The following reports filed with MRD shall, subject to Section 13 below, be discontinued:

- 1.1 **Broker Dealers**
  - a) *General Information Sheet* *
- 1.2 **Transfer Agents**
  - a) *Notice of Change of Address* *
  - b) *General Information Sheet* *
- 1.3 **Investment Houses/Underwriters**
  - a) *General Information Sheet* *
  - b) *Annual Financial Statements* *
- 1.4 **Investment Company Advisers**
  - a) *General Information Sheet* *
  - b) *Annual Financial Statements* *
- 1.5 **Government Securities Eligible Dealers (GSED)**
  - a) *General Information Sheet* *
  - b) *Annual Financial Statements* *
- 1.6 **Self Regulatory Organizations (Philippine Stock Exchange)**
  - a) Semi-annual report on the number of investors' complaints and other allied cases
  - b) Quarterly updates on price alerts
- 1.7 **Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation**
  - a) Monthly summary of PDTC participants with tax certification requirement
- 1.8 **Securities Clearing Corporation of the Philippines**
  - a) Quarterly report of Mark-to-Market Collateral Deposit Fund

Section 2 The reports of Transfer Agents on (a) Monthly Reconciliation of PCD and TA, (b) Monthly Certificate as to the number of shares registered under PCD Nominee, (c) Exception Report on "Loss of securities," and (d) the Monthly Stock Reconciliation by the Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation shall be discontinued. The collation of the data subject of the said reports shall henceforth be made by the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) and which reports shall, upon the request of MRD, be submitted to the latter by e-mail.

Section 3. The format, content and frequency of submission of the following reports shall be modified in the manner described below:

a) **Broker Dealers**

a) Form 28-T (Notice of Termination as Salesman or Associated Person)	E-mail to MRD at <www.mrd@sec.gov.ph>.
b) Report on Training Program	E-mail to PSE and PSE shall e-mail the report to SEC every 30th day of January.
c) Associated Person's quarterly compliance report	The report shall follow the format of SEC Form BD - 30.2 QCR.

b) **Self Regulatory Organizations (Philippine Stock Exchange)**

a) Examination calendar	The name of the form shall be changed to "Audit calendar" to clarify its objective.
b) Semi-annual report on newly listed, diluted and suspended issues.	The report shall be submitted annually every 30th day of January and shall cover the preceding year.

c) **Investment Houses/Underwriters**

a) Form QPR (Quarterly Progress Report with Quarterly Financial Statements)	The report shall follow the format of SEC Form IH-14 QPR.
b) Form AR (Annual Report)	The report shall follow the format of SEC Form IH-14 AR.

Part B
CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Section 4. The following reports filed with CFD shall, subject to Section 13 below, be discontinued:

- 4.1 **Listed Issuers**
  - a) Self-rating form
- 4.2 **Issuer of Registered/Exempt Commercial Papers**
  - a) Monthly Report (M-101-40)
  - b) List of issuances, outstanding balances and maturing obligations that form part of Form 17-Q
  - c) Quarterly Report and Monthly Report of issuers of exempt commercial papers
- 4.3 **Financing Companies**
  - a) Report on the change in directors/officers with NBI clearance, police clearance, certificate of good moral character, band credit information and proof of financial capacity
  - b) *General Information Sheet* *

Section 5. The self-rating form referred to in paragraph 4.1 (a) shall be replaced by the Corporate Governance Scorecard provided for in SEC Memorandum Circular No. 2, Series of 2007.

Section 6. In lieu of the FCQF1 (Financing Company Quarterly Financial Statement 1) and FCQF2 (Financing Company Quarterly Financial Statement 2) reports, Financing Companies shall submit within 15 calendar days from the end of the semester the Interim Financial Statements (FCIF) which shall cover the head office and its branch offices.

Section 7. The Preliminary Information Statement (Form 20-IS) shall, upon payment of the processing fee, be filed directly with CFD by Listed Issuers, Registered Issuers and Public Companies. The Definitive Information Statement shall, however, be filed with the general receiving section of the Commission.

Part C
NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITIES AND INSTRUMENTS DEPARTMENT

Section 8. The following reports of Pre-Need Companies shall, subject to Section 13 below, be discontinued:

1. Report on lapsed, cancelled and surrendered plans
2. List of salesmen on apprenticeship
3. *General Information Sheet* *

Section 9. The filing periods of the following reports by Pre-Need Companies shall be changed in the manner described below:

a) Interim Financial Statements	The report shall be submitted within 15 calendar days from the end of the semester.
b) Monthly Trust Fund Statements from trustee banks	The report shall be submitted within 10 calendar days from the end of the month.
c) Monthly Sales Report	The report shall be submitted within 10 calendar days from the end of the month.
d) Monthly Collection and Deposit to the Trust Fund Report	The report shall be submitted within 10 calendar days from the end of the month.
e) Copy of Pre-Need advertisement together with Certificate of Compliance with the Pre-Need Regulations and Advertising Board Code of Ethics	The report shall be submitted within three calendar days from the publication of the advertisement.

Section 10. Companies engaged in Alternative Trading Systems shall submit Form 2–A (Change in Operation) not later than 10 calendar days prior to the implementation of a material change in operation.

Part D
COMPANY REGISTRATION AND MONITORING DEPARTMENT

Section 11. The following reports to CRMD shall be discontinued:

- a) Notice of Postponement of Annual Meeting
- b) Affidavit of Non-Holding of Annual Meeting

Section 12. The separate filing of a "Report of election, death, resignation, cessation of office of directors, trustees and officers" shall be discontinued. However, in case any of the incidents mentioned happens, the corporation shall report the incident through an Amended General Information Sheet which shall be filed within 30 calendar days from the occurrence of the incident.

Part E
COMMON PROVISIONS

Section 13. The reports enumerated above marked with an asterisk (*) shall no longer be filed separately with the departments mentioned, but shall be filed only with CRMD within the prescribed periods.

Section 14. In the submission of the General Information Sheet (GIS), the 30-calendar day period shall be counted from the date the annual stockholders' meeting was actually held. However, if the corporation is unable to hold the meeting for the calendar year, the GIS shall be filed not later January 30 of the following year.

Section 15. The certificate of compliance with the Manual of Corporate Governance required of (a) Associated Persons of Broker Dealers, and (b) Compliance Officers of Transfer Agents, Investment Houses/Underwriters, Listed Issuers, Registered Issuers, Financing Companies, and Pre-Need Companies shall follow the format of SEC Form MCG – 2002 and shall be submitted every 30th day of January.

Section 16. The certificate of attendance of directors in meetings of the board of directors of Broker Dealers, Transfer Agents, Investment Houses/Underwriters, Listed Issuers, Registered Issuers, Financing Companies and Pre-Need Companies shall be signed by the corporate secretary, and countersigned by the chairperson of the board of directors, and shall be submitted every 30th day of January.

Section 17. All reports previously submitted by the corporations concerned that have not been discontinued or modified in the manner described in the preceding sections shall continue to be submitted in the form and periods prescribed by applicable SEC rules and regulations.

Section 18. The provisions of the 2005 Consolidated Scale of Fines that relate to reports that have been discontinued or modified by this Circular shall be deemed repealed or amended, as the case may be; provided, however, that violations of reportorial requirements committed prior to the effectivity of this Circular shall be dealt with in accordance with the original Consolidated Scale of Fines.

Section 19. This Memorandum Circular shall, after publication in two newspapers of general circulation, take effect on January 1, 2008.

September 5, 2007, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila.

For the Commission:

(Sgd.) Fe B. Barin
Chairperson

(PDI–September 6, 2007)

SMC fund keen on buying Bank of Commerce shares

Exec says possible investment to beef up bank's capital base

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE RETIREMENT FUND OF food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. is in talks with Bank of Commerce over a possible investment in the medium-sized financial institution.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, San Miguel Corp. Retirement Fund announced its interest to buy shares in BOC.

In a separate interview, BOC president Raul de Mesa said the bank was indeed beefing up its capital base, but stressed that no deal has been finalized yet.

"Nobody's selling any stake," the bank president made it clear. "It will be new capital."

BOC is the banking arm of businessman Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco, cousin of SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco. The disclosure did not provide details.

De Mesa declined to say how much in new capital BOC would like to raise and how the proceeds would be used.

"It will still be subject to regulatory approvals," De Mesa said.

BOC appears to have joined other local banks in their effort to beef up their respective capital base this year to be able to expand loan portfolios amid tighter capital adequacy requirement under the Basel II framework.

The bank currently has a capital adequacy ratio of 12 percent. Aside from hurdling stiffer regulatory requirements, BOC is also investing in the overseas market.

COJUANGCO

BOC recently made inroads in Africa's banking system by putting up a national bank in the oil-rich Equatorial Guinea. It helped the central African government set up a $5-million bank, acquiring a 30-percent stake in it.

Banco Nacional de Guinea Equatorial, the first domestically incorporated bank, is 40-percent owned by the government of Equatorial Guinea, and 30 percent by other private sector partners, including a big oil firm.

In 2006, BOC posted a net profit of P596 million against only P160 million the previous year.

Fee-based revenue rose by P447 million, or 46 percent, buoyed by trading gains on peso securities. Operating expenses were higher by P235 million, or 11 percent, from the comparative level in 2005.

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Ajinomoto to close Pasig MSG factory

AJINOMOTO IS SET TO CLOSE ITS PASIG City MSG factory on Oct. 10 this year as part of a global restructuring program.

Ajinomoto Philippines Corporation (APC) will instead focus on the sales and marketing of MSG and the other Ajinomoto food products.

"Ajinomoto has made the difficult but strategic business decision to close our MSG factory and to cease manufacturing operations in Pasig as part of a shift in focus by Ajinomoto headquarters to a global MSG sourcing strategy," said Yutaka Kagaya, president of APC.

Kagaya said the actions being taken concerning the Pasig factory, while regrettable, will ensure that the company can continue to grow and, in the process, support the success of its over 500 employees and the several hundred thousand wholesalers and retailers associated with the firm nationwide.

Kagaya said that the 271 factory employees who will be affected by the closure will be treated fairly, and will receive separation packages that are higher than what the law requires and above industry standards.

APC has significant business relations with over 600,000 wholesalers and retailers who market and distribute APC's range of products nationwide.

It has been operating in the Philippines for 49 years.

"We are a well-established household brand in the Philippines and we intend to continue to play a significant role in enhancing the lives of our customers through the development and marketing of a range of value-added products that meet the needs of people throughout this nation," said Kagaya.

August inflation . . .

From page B1

percent; fuel, light and water, 5.1 percent from 5.3 percent; services, 1.8 percent from 2.1 percent, and miscellaneous items, 1.4 percent from 1.5 percent. Inflation for clothing was the same in July and August at 2.2 percent.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said price movements in August confirmed the central bank's outlook of a sustained benign inflation for this year.

The BSP maintained a neutral monetary policy stance during the meeting of its policy-making Monetary Board last July 12. It slashed its key policy rate to 6 percent from 7.5 percent but at the same time lifted the tiering scheme to offset the expansionary effect of the rate cut.

The tiering scheme had been implemented from May to early July to encourage banks to lend more to the public instead of parking bulk of their funds with the central bank.

Explaining the BSP's decision to keep a neutral policy stance, monetary authorities said there was no reason to raise the policy rate given an outlook that inflation would remain benign. But neither should the BSP conduct an expansionary monetary policy because inflation risks, such as high liquidity growth, volatile oil prices and weather condition, remained.

"Even with this muted price movement, we shall keep a watchful eye on remaining risks to guide our conduct of monetary policy going forward," Tetangco said.

Investment bank UBS said inflation was likely to be higher due to a projected increase in oil prices and the impact of the robust economic growth in the first half.

The economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, grew 7.5 percent in the second quarter from a year ago largely due to higher government spending and private sector investments. It was the economy's strongest performance in 20 years.

Although a robust economic growth was a positive event, economists said this had the negative effect of accelerating inflation.

"Looking forward, headline CPI inflation is likely to edge higher in coming months, all else equal. On top of that, stronger growth should, with a lag, put upward pressure on the inflation rate," UBS said in a research paper on the Philippine economy.

UBS said the benign inflation so far this year allowed the BSP to remain neutral and eased pressure for tightening.

"The August CPI data suggests inflation is manageable and given that the BSP believes its policy rate-setting is already at neutral, this data support our case for unchanged rates into yearend, even with better-than-expected growth. As such, below-target inflation allows more room for BSP to give growth a chance," UBS said.

UBS projected that over the next 18 months, inflation would remain below the BSP's target for 2008 of between 3 and 5 percent.

Kepco needs supply contract before it starts building 200-MW plant

By Abigail L. Ho

KOREA ELECTRIC POWER CORP., THE parent firm of the country's second largest independent power producer, expects to operate a 200-megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant in Cebu by 2010.

A person familiar with the matter said, however, that the start of the plant's construction was hinged on the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval of a power supply deal between Kepco Philippines Corp. and Negros Occidental Electric Cooperative Inc.

The applied rate for the Noceco contract was placed at P4.30 a kilowatt-hour.

Other supply contracts were with the Negros Oriental Electric Cooperative Inc. and the Central Negros Electric Cooperative Inc., the source said.

"We're still waiting for the ERC's approval of our contract with our first electric cooperative partner Noceco. As soon as the approval is secured, we will issue the tender and proceed with the construction. That will take 36 months to complete," the source said, adding that the power firm hoped to start construction by early October at the latest.

The source said the plant would take between $300 million and $320 million to construct, to be financed by a Citibank-led consortium of banks.

Kepco, together with Salcon Power Corp., will put up the 200-MW coal-fired power plant in Naga, Cebu.

The project will use clean coal technology, which limits the emission of harmful nitrogen oxide and sulfur oxide to environment-friendly levels.

Kepco had earlier expressed interest in bidding for the 600-MW Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales and the 600-MW Calaca coal-fired power facility in Batangas.

It did not push through with the bidding for Masinloc, however. Bidding for the Calaca plant would not take place until next month.

Kepco's Philippine operations currently include Kepco Philippines Corp., which operates the 650-MW Malaya Thermal Power Plant in Rizal, and Kepco Ilijan Corp., which operates the 1,200-MW Ilijan Combined Cycle Power Plant in Batangas.

For MWSI, a way out of rehab

CA ruling also allows Maynilad to get on with infra work

By Amy R. Remo

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS denied a petition of a union made up of Maynilad Water Services Inc. workers, enabling the water firm to push for an early exit from rehabilitation.

Maynilad Water Supervisors' Association had sought the help of the appeals court to prevent Judge Reynaldo Daway from hearing the rehabilitation case of Maynilad Water.

That decision would also enable Maynilad to accelerate service improvement projects throughout the West Zone.

In a decision authored by Associate Justice Myrna Dimaranan Vidal and promulgated on Aug. 30, 2007, the CA refuted MWSA's claim that Daway had been "biased and prejudiced" against the union, particularly on the issue of unsettled benefits.

These include the cost of living allowance and provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The Court ruled that, throughout the rehabilitation case proceeding, the respondent judge "did not commit grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction," and that it did not see any "compelling reason for Judge Daway to disqualify himself from handling the case."

MWSA on Dec. 5, 2006 filed a motion for Voluntary Inhibition of Judge Daway, on the grounds that the judge allegedly indicated partiality as he presided over Maynilad's rehabilitation case.

Judge Daway, however, maintained that the motion against him was "completely baseless," and that he acted only "in the interest of fairness and transparency to all concerned including the supervisors."

In April 2007, MWSA then filed a petition for certiorari, which resulted in the CA issuing a 60-day temporary restraining order on the judge.

The TRO effectively prevented Maynilad from exiting rehabilitation at the soonest possible time.

SINGSON

"While it is within the right of MWSA to file its opposition to the plan to exit from rehabilitation, the effects of the TRO have become a stumbling block to the continued drive to make Maynilad truly a viable company," Maynilad president Rogelio Singson said in a statement.

Singson had since urged employees to set aside their differences, as the company could no longer delay the process which would allow Maynilad to grow, attain its targets and fulfill its commitment to over six million customers.

The effort of Maynilad and government and banking stakeholders to get the concessionaire out of rehabilitation culminated in the signing of the Prepayment and Settlement Agreement and the Transitional and Clarificatory Agreement on Aug. 9, 2007.

The different parties have been in the thick of negotiations since the new Maynilad owners, the DMCI-Metro Pacific consortium, took over in January 2007.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System had already endorsed the TCA to the Department of Finance, and is now awaiting acknowledgement by the government.

Maynilad has been under rehabilitation since it filed for concession termination in 2003, after incurring heavy losses largely due to the 1998 Asian financial crisis.

Maynilad has recovered since 2004 and, following a bid, was acquired by DMCI and MPIC in late 2006 as part of the rehabilitation plan.

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UK-RP energy deal worth $1.3B collapses

A $1.3-BILLION DEAL between a state-run Philippine energy firm and British company NRG Chemical Engineering, to build biofuel facilities here, has collapsed, a senior official yesterday said.

PNOC-Alternative Fuels Corp. (PNOC-AFC) was suppose to form a firm with NRG to set up a plantation and facility for production of alternative fuels in this country. But an official close to the talks said PNOC-AFC chose not to sign.

The official, who requested anonymity, would not say why the deal did not push through but added that NRG Chemical had decided to go with another local firm in the private sector. He would not identify that firm.

The two firms had originally planned to build a 3.5-million metric ton bio-refinery at a cost of $455 million, and a $600-million plantation for jatropha, a plant material which is used in producing biofuels.

They also plan to build a 300,000 metric ton bio-ethanol plant at a cost of $200 million.

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed the Biofuels Act of 2006 early this year, hoping to reduce the country's dependence on imported crude oil in favor of alternative fuels produced locally.

The law mandates the blending of one percent bio-diesel in all diesel products starting May.

By 2009, all gasoline products to be sold in the country should have a 5-percent ethanol mix.

AFP

Gov't seeks to tighten oil grip on ecozone locators

By Michelle V. Remo

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo is set to issue an executive order requiring economic zone locators to regularly declare the volume of their oil importation requirements.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the order, which he said should be out soon, is meant to curb technical smuggling of oil.

Importation in excess of the declared oil requirement of ecozone locators will not be allowed entry, Teves said.

Technical smuggling of oil is normally done by falsely declaring that it is imported by an economic zone locator. Locators are granted duty-free privilege as a reward for their dollar contributions to the country through exports.

In a Congressional hearing on the proposed 2008 national budget, Teves told legislators that the government loses between P60 billion and P65 billion a year due to technical smuggling, largely of oil.

The government is hard-pressed to plug revenue leaks, which may derail the country's effort to meet its fiscal targets. In the first half, the government reported an anemic tax take.

The government is trying to stick to its commitment to reduce the budget deficit to P63 billion this year, from last year's P64.8 billion, and to post a balanced budget by next year.

The executive order will be issued following the failure of the Bureau of Customs to meet its tax and duty collection targets in the first half.

In a recent meeting between the President and Customs officials, the latter said one reason for the collection shortfall was the drop in the importation of oil.

The President, however, did not accept the excuse, saying it was impossible for oil importation to have dropped because the economy grew robustly.

"Taxes are the nation's lifeblood and everyone should pay their fair share," Teves said in an earlier statement. "We will all benefit from more and better roads, well-trained and well-paid public servants, the delivery of good health services and high standards of public education."

Exceeding expectations, the economy grew 7.5 percent in the second quarter from a year ago, its strongest performance in 20 years. For the first half, economic growth averaged at 7.3 percent.

Teves said the Department of Finance, mother agency of the BOC, has directed Customs personnel to implement measures to curb the problem of smuggling.

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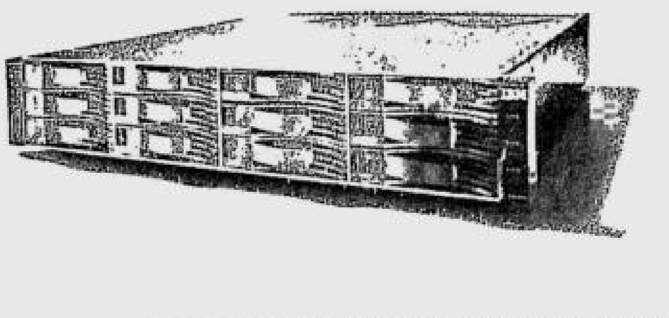

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Splash IPO price at ₱8.70-₱11.18

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS maker Splash Corp. aims to raise between P1.9 billion and P2.5 billion from an initial public offering this year, the company said in a report to regulators.

Splash will sell 223.85 million shares at P8.70 to P11.18 each. The offer will consist of 188.84 million new shares and 35 million shares held by parent firm Splash Holdings Inc.

Splash Holdings is an investment holding company owned by Splash Group founders Rolando and Rosalinda Ang-Hortaleza.

Splash Holdings owns six companies whose total gross sales amounted to P4.5 billion for 2006.

The shares to be sold to the public will represent 30 percent of the total issued and outstanding capital stock of the company.

SB Capital Investment Corp. and First Metro Investment Corp. are the lead underwriters for the IPO.

The market value of the company based on its offer price is estimated to hit between P6.49 billion and P8.34 billion after the IPO.

In its prospectus, Splash said the funds will be spent for research and development (P391.5-P503.5 million), brand management and new product introductions (P234.9-P302.13 million) and acquisitions (P939.6-P1.2 billion).

Philex nets ₱3.1B in 7 months

By Amy R. Remo

LISTED FIRM PHILEX MINING CORP. SAID it more than doubled its net income for the first seven months of the year to P3.1 billion from P1.4 billion a year ago due to higher metal prices and mine production.

"We are optimistic that this trend will continue until the end of the year," said Walter Brown, Philex chair and CEO.

Brown added that with the company's financial performance, Philex's earnings were equivalent to P1.036 per share from only P0.471 per share in the year-ago period.

The mining firm earlier reported a net income of P2.5 billion for the first half of the year, also more than double the P1.2 billion made in the same period in 2006.

Philex also posted a higher second-quarter net income of P1.5 billion, nearly trebling the P596 million in profit a year ago.

Brown said they were optimistic of a favorable bottom line if the current prices for copper and gold and the higher metal production from ore would continue.

"Philex is (also) pursuing other mining exploration projects not only in the country but in other parts of the world as well," he said.

Philex has embarked on an aggressive exploration program this year to take advantage of the continuous rise in metal prices.

In Benguet, the company has started extensive exploration of the existing ore body at its mine site and surrounding prospects.

The company plans to do a drilling test at the Sto. Tomas II ore body of the existing Padcal mine to possibly extend its mine life.

Philex has also programmed several known porphyry copper-gold targets for exploration this year, including the Tapaya prospect and the Butan and Midway gold prospects.

In the Visayas, Philex is re-evaluating the Bulawan gold deposit located in Sipalay, Negros Occidental, for a possible resumption of the mine's operations.

Another joint venture property covered by its permit is the Lascogon project, which is a Philex-FEC Resources joint venture also located in Surigao del Norte.

Two more targets within the Lascogon project are also scheduled to be evaluated this year.

Brown earlier said that Philex was evaluating several prospective mining properties in Mindanao.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 5, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.4	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	21,000
73	36.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	56.5	58.5	56	57.5	790,600
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	61	62	61	61	1,452,800
935	630	China Banking Corp.	815	815	805	805	5,770
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23	23	23	23	800
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	410,000
75.5	38	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	57.5	58.5	57.5	57.5	5,118,200
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	45	47	44.5	46.5	399,100
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	62.5	62.5	62.5	62.5	300
39.57	14.57	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	24.25	24.5	24.25	24.5	1,263,600
90	49.5	Security Bank Corp.	72.5	73	72.5	73	200
66	42.53	Union Bank of the Philippines	56	56	56	56	57,500
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.76	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	10,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2.12	2.2	2.06	2.1	3,904,000
16.25	2.44	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	12	12.25	11.75	12	916,100
42	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	500
1,790.00	1,555.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,780.00	1,790.00	1,780.00	1,790.00	1,220
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.3	3.4	3.25	3.4	2,653,000
3.1	1	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.86	1.88	1.86	1.88	100,000
1,005.00	224	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	760	785	750	785	2,940
2,260.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc	2,200.00	2,260.00	2,200.00	2,260.00	3,290
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.5	168,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.1	5.4	5.1	5.3	41,085,000
70	47.5	First Gen Corp.	62.5	63.5	62.5	63.5	497,900
92	45	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	75.5	76.5	75.5	76.5	491,400
15	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	1,170,100
105.45	16.14	Manila Electric Co.	80	83	80	83	3,622,500
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	5,914,000
6.5	3.75	Petron Corp.	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.6	7,714,000
14.75	6.7	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.5	7.6	7.1	7.2	128,000
2.5	1.7	Salcon Power Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2,000
1.9	0.95	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	1.18	1.28	1.18	1.24	1,929,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	2.95	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	45,000
2.95	1.86	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	1,000
2.65	1.08	CADP Group Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	24	24	24	24	2,500
61	33	Jollibee Foods Corp.	54	54	53.5	54	99,100
9	4.7	Pancake House Inc.	8	8.5	8	8.5	8,000
1.96	0.78	RFM Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	25,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.26	2.26	2.24	2.26	166,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	62.5	63	62.5	63	12,400
88	60	San Miguel Corp. "B"	66.5	66.5	66	66	707,600
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.5	16.75	623,100
0.55	0.205	Vitarich Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	50,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
10	7.3	Concrete Aggregates Corp. "A"	10	10	10	10	19,000
6.1	1.59	EEI Corp.	4.5	4.55	4.45	4.45	371,000
9.2	4.75	Holcim Philippines Inc.	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.8	9,306,000
7	1.28	Republic Cement Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	80,000
2	0.28	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.24	1.14	1.14	11,590,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.1	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	286,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1	1	1	1	10,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
4	1.76	Active Alliance Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	5,000
0.75	0.1	Picop Resources Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	3,890,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.84	A. Soriano Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	114,000
0.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.0825	0.0825	4,200,000
1.28	0.21	APC Group Inc.	0.59	0.6	0.58	0.6	2,730,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.95	3.05	2.9	3.05	240,000
3.7	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	3.3	3.45	3.3	3.45	29,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	10,200,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.5	4,765,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	28,100,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3	4,022,000
1.38	0.5	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	100,000
1.5	0.2	Asia Amalgamated Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.65	0.6	0.65	100,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.24	2.32	2.22	2.26	2,692,000
590	370.83	Ayala Corp.	475	477.5	465	467.5	274,190
5.8	1.18	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.1	4.1	3.95	3.95	12,324,000
10.25	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	5,031,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.6	5.6	110,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.86	1.86	150,000
14.5	5.7	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	1,000,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.62	1.72	1.62	1.72	2,000
0.8	0.205	Medco Holdings Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	10,000
0.95	0.195	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	100,000
11.5	0.98	Multitech Investments Corp.	4.65	4.7	4.5	4.55	1,949,000
8.2	2.8	PAL Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.3	137,000
0.17	0.01	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.085	0.11	0.085	0.11	800,590,000
1.54	0.76	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.76	0.76	320,000
0.75	0.17	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	370,000
452.5	212.91	SM Investments Corp.	375	385	372.5	375	300,210
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.33	3,930,000
1.06	0.57	Solid Group Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	80,000
1.6	0.88	South China Resources Inc.	1.4	1.46	1.36	1.46	75,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	9,900
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.32	0.33	6,120,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.78	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.5	1.54	1.5	1.5	690,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc	6.9	7.4	6.7	7.2	534,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	50,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	14	14.25	14	14.25	4,700,500
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	4,196,000
4.7	2.26	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	37,000
2.9	1.3	Cityland Development Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.6	50,000
0.86	0.29	Crown Equities Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	110,000
0.99	0.48	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	760,000
0.47	0.048	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.22	1,950,000
1.48	0.43	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.16	8,250,000
2.44	1.09	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.54	1.56	7,230,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.57	0.62	1,690,000
4.4	1.62	Megaworld Corp.	3.4	3.45	3.35	3.35	28,224,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	55,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.34	530,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	230,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.8	30,000
23	12.5	Robinson Land Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.5	3,525,700
5.9	1.42	SM Development Corp.	4.15	4.15	4.05	4.1	317,000
13.5	6.24	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.5	10,815,100
3.25	0.85	Shang Properties Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	582,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	280,000
0.49	0.08	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.25	2,770,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5.1	5.1	4.95	5	4,777,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	16	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31	32	31	32	50,800
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	9.9	10	9.7	10	563,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.26	1,437,000
1,445.00	1,015.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,375.00	1,380.00	1,360.00	1,370.00	334,610
2,820.00	1,975.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,670.00	2,710.00	2,670.00	2,710.00	109,930
7.9	4.1	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.9	7	6.9	7	1,890,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.195	0.195	5,490,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	9	9	8.7	8.7	459,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.029	60,900,000
29.5	8	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	100
2.9	1.56	Ionics Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.56	1.56	840,000
0.32	0.043	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.175	0.18	0.175	0.175	22,230,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.24	1.32	1.22	1.32	1,400,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb Com Inc	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.049	15,800,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc.	2.46	2.46	2.42	2.42	462,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	2.06	2.1	2.06	2.1	4,078,000
6.8	3.05	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.9	3.95	3.9	3.9	129,000
34.5	14.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	32.5	33	32	32	166,100
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.75	2.75	2,105,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	2,050,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.7	8	7.7	7.8	130,000
950	650	Far Eastern University Inc	850	880	850	880	350
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	1,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
41	6.6	JTH Davies Holdings Inc.	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	100
6	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	4.25	4.3	4.25	4.25	604,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12	12	11.75	11.75	43,000
30	9.9	Paxys Inc.	14.5	14.5	14.25	14.25	153,500
		MINING					
0.018	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	55,000,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	4.55	4.6	4.45	4.55	167,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	4.55	4.6	4.55	4.6	32,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	14	14	13.5	13.75	1,683,000
3.1	0.33	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	1.46	1.56	1.46	1.52	46,759,000
0.35	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.235	0.25	0.235	0.25	74,230,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.3	6,400,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.021	0.024	0.021	0.024	380,000,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.025	0.027	0.025	0.027	91,600,000
30	1.2	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	10.5	11	10.5	10.5	416,300
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	4,600,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.4	5.5	5,760,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	30	31	30	31	1,582,200
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.96	1.04	0.96	1	3,300,000
1.8	0.56	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.2	1,050,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	9,000,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "A"	0.021	0.023	0.021	0.022	423,400,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "B"	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	56,600,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.2	9.5	9.2	9.5	14,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	334,400,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	878.88 UP	6.01	17,278,920	527,299,650.00
Industrial	4,613.67 UP	68.25	89,860,600	839,848,305.00
Holding Firms	1,835.60 DOWN	5.26	890,164,400	498,043,625.00
Property	1,503.09 UP	6.04	82,383,300	412,701,345.00
Service	1,620.47 UP	21.00	121,426,490	821,726,890.00
Mining & Oil	5,747.49 UP	202.31	1,495,993,500	237,557,255.00
All Shares Index	2,129.56 UP	14.99		
PSEi	3,342.35 UP	30.05		
		GRAND TOTALS	2,697,107,210	3,337,177,070.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

Atlas inks deal with Aussie firm

LISTED FIRM ATLAS Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. yesterday said its subsidiary Berong Nickel Corp. had signed a long-term laterite ore supply agreement with Queensland Nickel Pty. Ltd., a BHP Billiton company.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Atlas said the five-year supply agreement carried the option for Queensland to extend the term for another five years.

The Queensland contract will provide a base load for Berong's mining operations in Palawan.

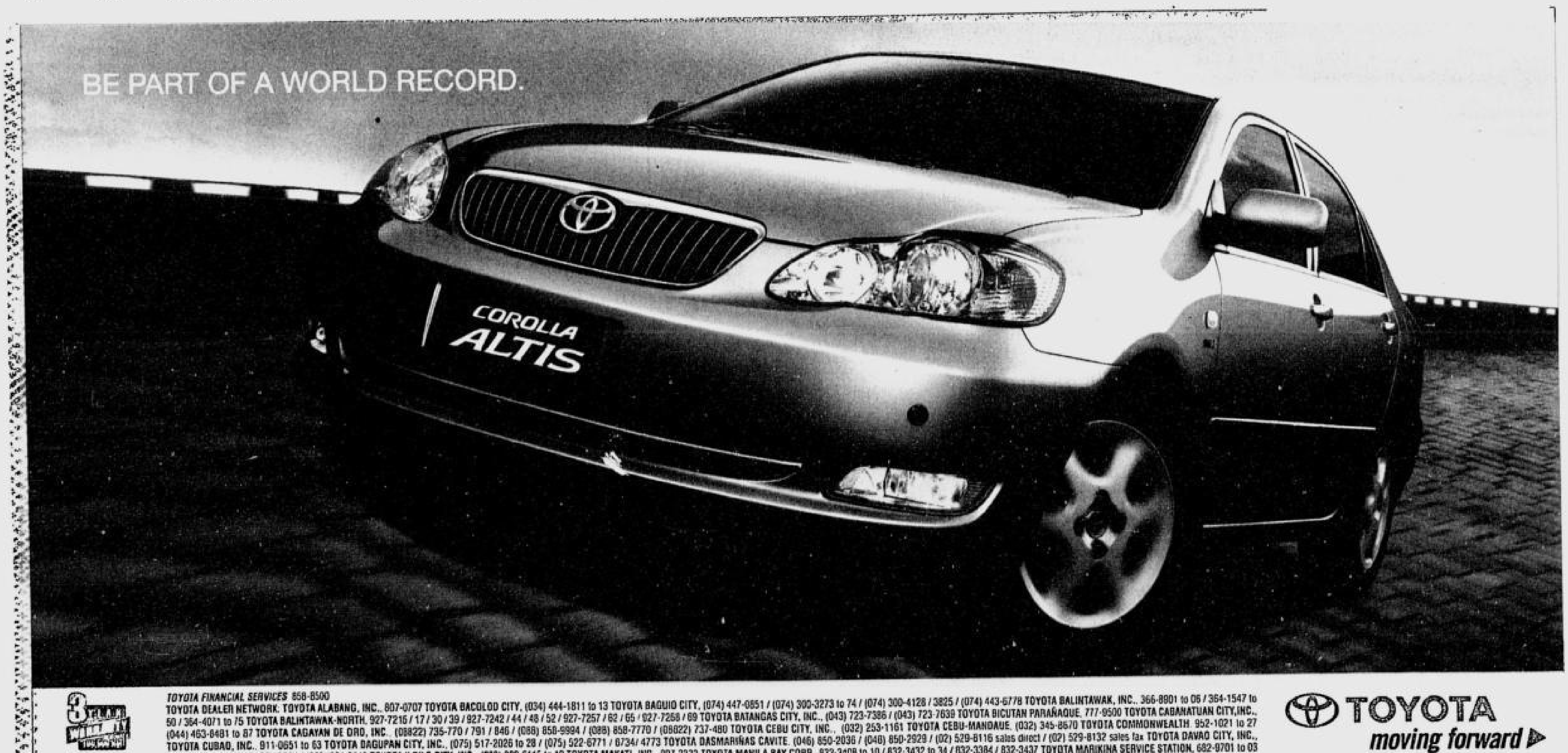
"This nickel offtake agreement with a BHP group company gives the Berong nickel project both stability and status enhancement," Atlas president and chair Alfredo Ramos said in the disclosure to the stock exchange.

Berong, which is reported to be the fourth biggest nickel laterite resource worldwide, has an estimated reserve of 275 million dry tons with an average grade of 1.3-percent nickel.

Atlas started its direct nickel ore shipments last February from its Berong joint-venture project.

Production is expected to increase significantly over the next three years, Ramos said.

Amy Remo



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SSS plans more stock investments

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-OWNED SOCIAL Security Security System expects to increase its investments in local stocks by about P21.2 billion after getting a favorable investment valuation ruling from the Commission on Audit.

SSS assistant vice president Ma. Luz Generoso said yesterday that the COA had issued an opinion that the limit on the fund's investments—including stock market investments—should be based on the acquisition cost and not current market prices.

If stock market investments were marked to market prices, the SSS investments in the stock market at end-June stood at P80.8 billion, equivalent to 40 percent of the investment reserve fund of P200 billion, thus exceeding the limit of 30 percent.

But since the SSS was allowed by COA to compute its exposure based on the acquisition cost, the SSS' stock market investments are officially valued at only P38.8 billion during the same period, or 19.4 percent of the reserve fund.

As such, Generoso said the SSS has room to increase its stock market investments.

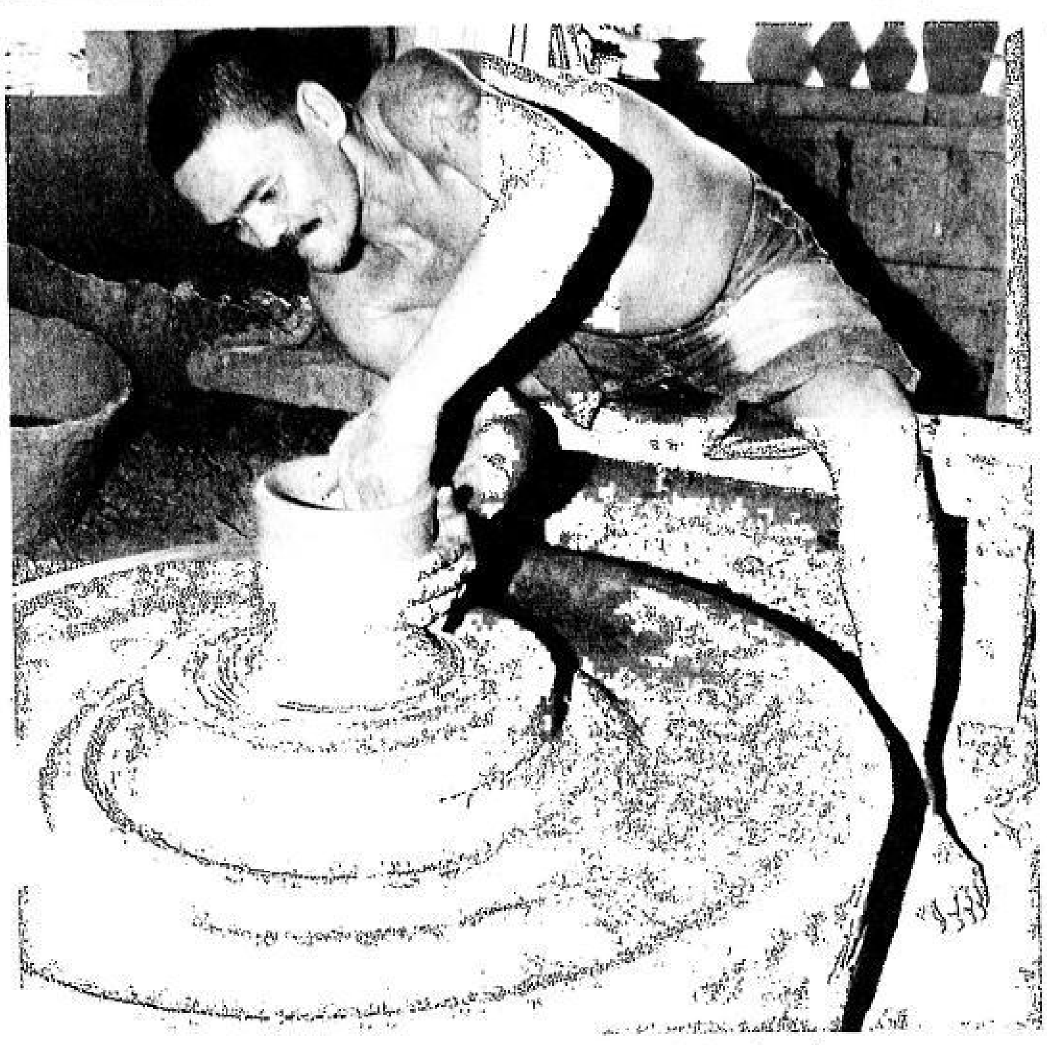
Base on the investment reserve fund of P200 billion, the SSS can invest about P60 billion in the stock market based on its internal limit.

The pension fund set a stock investment limit of 30 percent of the reserve fund to prevent the fund from putting too much money in the market like what happened during the time of ousted President Joseph E. Estrada.

Shored up by huge stock market windfall, the SSS' investment income almost doubled to P15.5 billion in the first half of the year from P7.7 billion a year ago.

Extraordinary gains from the sale of its shares in San Miguel Corp., Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Ayala Land Inc. also led to the increase in its investment income.

ING to set up new equity fund



THE BURNAY (jar) making industry in Vigan City struggles during the rainy season as potters find it difficult to dry their products. NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU/LEONCIO BALBIN, JR.

Investors will get chance to invest in Asian stocks

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

ING INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP, which manages around P80 billion in assets in the Philippines, plans to put up an investment fund that will allow Filipino investors to buy Asian stocks.

ING Investment Management managing director Cesar Zulueta said on the sidelines of ING's Funds Tournament awarding ceremony in Makati yesterday that the fund manager had filed an application with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) for the planned Asian Equity Fund.

"What we want to do here on the funds side of the business is to introduce Filipino investors to a more diversified offering of investments," Zulueta said.

"Sure, we know what local bonds are, what local equities are, but the market is relatively small. If we want these investors to be exposed to other types of assets, we should be there," he added.

Although the size of the fund would depend on investor interest, Zulueta estimated that it would start at $50-$100 million.

He also said that the fund will be invested in major stocks in Asia.

Zulueta said ING Investment Management hoped to launch the new investment product before the end of the year.

ING Investment Management operates in 12 countries in Asia-Pacific.

These include Japan, Korea, Taiwan, China, Thailand, Singapore, India, Malaysia and Australia.

ING Investment Management is part of the ING Group and is ING's main asset management business unit.

It has over 350 billion euros in assets under management globally for a diverse client range, which includes institutional investors, pension funds, insurance companies, financial institutions, foundations, and retail funds throughout Europe, the Americas and Asia Pacific.

Its Philippine unit—ING Investment Management Philippines—operates as the trust department of ING Bank NV (Manila branch), a branch office of ING Bank NV Netherlands.

Present in the Philippines since 1998, ING IM Philippines provides management services to corporate, institutional and retail clients.

ING IM Philippines launched its range of retail funds in 2003.

Its peso-denominated products are: the ING peso cash management fund (invested primarily in short-term Philippine government and corporate bonds); ING peso bond fund (fixed-income peso bonds); ING diversified balanced fund (in high-earning stocks and interest income paying bonds) and the ING Philippine equity fund (local stocks).

Its dollar-denominated products are the ING Philippine dollar bond fund and the ING dollar income fund (diversified portfolio of bonds from Chile, Malaysia, Russia, Kazakhstan and other emerging markets).

Prospects are good for investment funds as the asset management business has been growing by 20-25 percent over the past five years.

One reason is the low yields on traditional investment vehicles, including savings accounts and government securities that forced investors to look for investments with higher returns.

BROOKE'S POINT FIND

Macroasia, Toledo to develop Palawan nickel prospects

LISTED FIRM MACROASIA CORP. signed yesterday a memorandum of understanding with Toledo Mining Corp. (TMC) on a proposed joint development of two nickel projects in Palawan.

In a disclosure, Macroasia said the joint development involves the Infanta nickel project and the adjoining Celestial Nickel Project in Brooke's Point, Palawan.

TMC and its affiliates hold the majority interest in the Celestial nickel project, which they co-own with Celestial Nickel Mining Exploration Corp.

Macroasia and TMC will undertake studies that will cover possible joint work on the mining claims.

The Infanta nickel deposit extends across the common boundary areas controlled by Macroasia and TMC.

Both Macroasia and TMC have been drilling and testing their respective areas to define the extent of the nickel laterite mineralization, Macroasia said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Based on drilling on an area of roughly 300 hectares, TMC has defined more than 60 million tons of mineralization.

It is expected that the Macroasia property has similar nickel laterite mineralization.

The possible joint development of the combined properties should make it easier for both companies to meet all standards of responsible mining, including environmental protection and community and social development, Macroasia said.

Mining firms are aggressively searching for nickel, which is used in the production of stainless steel.

The Philippines is said to have considerable untapped reserves. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

CURRENCIES

September 5, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.734808	1.000000	46.5820
Japan	Yen	0.006316	0.008595	0.4004
United Kingdom	Pound	1.479830	2.013900	93.8115
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.094275	0.128299	5.9764
Switzerland	Franc	0.606427	0.825287	38.4435
Canada	Dollar	0.700551	0.953380	44.4103
Singapore	Dollar	0.481778	0.655652	30.5416
Australia	Dollar	0.605179	0.823588	38.3644
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.949299	2.652801	123.5728
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.195928	0.266638	12.4205
Brunei	Dollar	0.480204	0.653509	30.4418
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.000106	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022471	0.030581	1.4245
UAE	Dirham	0.200084	0.272294	12.6840
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.360900	63.3934
Korea	Won	0.000783	0.001065	0.0496
China	Yuan**	0.097330	0.132456	6.1701
Denmark	Kroner	0.134302	0.182772	8.5139
India	Rupee	0.018019	0.024522	1.1423
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.209556	0.285185	13.2845
New Zealand	Dollar	0.512454	0.697399	32.4862
Sweden	Kroner	0.106449	0.144867	6.7482
Syria	Pound	0.014338	0.019512	0.9089
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022251	0.030281	1.4105
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000342	0.000466	0.0217

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Sept. 4, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Sept. 4, 2007

China's Shimao eyes . . .

From page B1

American agency which declined to take it—was recently the subject of an ownership dispute between BCDA and a homeowners' association comprised of the wives of retired Armed Forces officials.

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of BCDA, which is preparing to appraise the area toward eventual disposition of the asset through a joint venture with a private company.

Last May, Abaya said Shimao chair Hui Wing Mao personally reiterated his serious and firm interest in investing in Fort Bonifacio during a recent meeting with BCDA officials in Hong Kong that month.

Abaya said Shimao was a world-class, fast-paced developer that could finish a 900-room twin-tower luxury hotel in 18 months, as what they did with the Hyatt Hotel at the Bund in Shanghai.

BCDA Chair Aloysius Santos had said that Shimao's entry into the domestic setting would set a new standard in real estate development in the Philippines.

The China visit by Santos and Abaya was made upon the invitation of Hui, who came to Manila last March to sign a memorandum of understanding with the BCDA on a joint development of a sizable portion of land at the Global City.

Abaya said this was one of the biggest partnerships of the government for property development in 2007, which would further boost the asset disposition program of BCDA and enhance its revenue-generating capability.

Stocks close higher . . .

From page B1

Index leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. paced the gainers, putting on P45 at P3,342.35.

Manila Electric Co. jumped P6 to P83, rebounding from earlier losses on fears lower tariffs set by government regulators would affect its bottom line.

But Ron Rodrigo of Unicapital Securities said Meralco remained fundamentally strong, noting that its earnings in the next four years were expected to remain strong.

"And the company itself sees no reason why foreign investors should dump the stock," he said. *AFP*

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* From The Toyota Way, Jeffrey K. Liker, 2004 and Guinness World Records, 2006 edition.
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Baliwag Navigation, Inc.

wishes to announce the untimely demise of

Capt. Angel Caro Sicat

Master Mariner and Senior Fleet Manager

on 03 September 2007.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz
in Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.
A Funeral Mass will be held
on 06 September 2007 at 7:30 a.m.
Interment will be held thereafter
at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

Our deepest sympathies and condolences
to his bereaved wife, **Mrs. Consuelo Sicat,**
to his daughter **Atty. Aileen Sicat,**
and to all his relatives.

"I tell you most solemnly, whoever listens to My word and believes in the one who sent Me has entered eternal life; without being brought to judgment he has passed from death to life."

John 5:24

Message of Thanks

BENJAMIN CUI ENCARNACION

of Calapan, Mindoro Oriental
and La Vista, Quezon City
B.S. Electrical Engineering 1950
University of the Philippines, Diliman

August 13, 1927 - August 20, 2007

We, his children: **Livi Feddern, Sitoy** and **Edna, Bobbet** and **Eddie Boy Escudero, Ning** and **Juju Tan, Sylvia** and **Jay Ladenheim, Pat** and **Marivic, Tesa** and **Ed Tadem, Mati, Mita** and **Jim Ivey, Mino** and **Margo, Chuck**: and grandchildren **Ula** and **Ron, Sumi, Allos, Jim, Miko, Juan E., Ote, Jomi, Jan, Benjo, Susie, Karen, Angela, Maya, Diego, Mateo, Emilio** and **Sammie**, thank you for your overwhelming support, love and prayers during our time of deep sorrow.

"Only goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever

- Psalm 23:6

MAMERTA PEREYRAS vda. de CONCEPCION

peacefully returned to the loving embrace of her
Creator & her husband
ALEXANDER C. CONCEPCION (†)
on September 01, 2007 at the age of 85.

Her children **Douglas Sr. & Dianne (†), Alma & Nonong, Rudy (†) & Elsa, Bing, Bernard & Lorie,** her grandchildren **Frank & Jess, Hanz & Khris, Cristy, Douglas Jr., Aries & Khym, Jay, Sweetheart, Abigail & Coy, Badette, Carlo, Nicko, Kristle, Marco,** and her great-grandchildren **Angel, Sarah, Arriane, Kevin** and **Migo**, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul

Her remains lie in state at her residence in Sobrecary St., Tagum City.

Interment shall be on Sunday, September 9, 2007 at Glorious Memorial Park, Tagum City after the 1:30 p.m. Mass at the New Christ the King Cathedral, Tagum City.

HONORIO JIMENEZ SAN GABRIEL

of Nueva Ecija and Taguig City

Peacefully joined our Lord
on September 02, 2007 at the age of 83.

His wife HERMINIA (†); children and in-laws NILO and ALICE, GIL and MYLEANE, ALEX and TINA; grandsons RYAN, KENNETH, IAN, KEVIN, PATRICK and ANDRE; SAN GABRIEL and BELTRAN FAMILIES, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel 5, Garden of Memories Memorial Chapels, Pateros, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Saturday, Sept. 8, 2007 at the Garden of Memories Memorial Park after the celebration of the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.

Tel. Nos.: 712-3001; 749-3806 to 11

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
BENJAMIN M. LEYSA	San Francisco del Monte, Q.C.	September 8, 2007 10:00 a.m.	Eternal Garden Memorial Park
DANIEL P. ULANGCA	Chapel - D	September 8, 2007 11:00 a.m.	Paz Crematory

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Notify family and friends of a loved one who had just passed away.

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912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)

MAKATI
892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370

KALAW
528-0213; 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219; 635-0220

Our Dearly Beloved

Maria Chan Hao

Peacefully joined the Lord
on September 03, 2007
at the age of 64.

Her remains lie in state at
Sanctuarium, No. 739 Quezon Avenue,
Quezon City.

Cremation will be on
September 10, 2007, 11:00 am at
Sanctuarium Crematory,
Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 14:6

People, Events & Products

Deadline for Panasonic's The Art of Life photo contest extended

PANASONIC EXTENDS ITS TARGET FOR THE "THE ART OF LIFE BY PANASONIC" PHOTO CONtest up to Sept. 30. Panasonic hopes to highlight photographic excellence that is distinctly Pinoy as the creative flair of many Filipinos behind the lens will be put to the test. Explore and tinker on motion, colors and angles vis-à-vis life's greatest wonders like travel, music, fashion, sports, careers, family-oriented concepts and other daily occurrences in the urban and rural settings, highlighting the "art of life" present in both the traditional and modern ways of living. After "The Art of Life by Panasonic" finalists are chosen, they will continue their artistic quest through a depiction of "Panasonic in the life of the consumers" by going to the nearest Panasonic dealers and portray Panasonic's contribution to the Filipino way of life. Only one entry per photographer is allowed. Any type or brand of camera can be used in the contest. Each entry should be both in an unmounted printed sample sizes placed in flat packages or mailing tubes and in digital files in CD format. Place your name, address and contact numbers on the back of the envelope for your submitted entries. Entries will be judged according to creativity, relevance to theme, quality of presentation and visual impact. First prize winner will receive P50,000, second prize winner P30,000 and the third prize winner P15,000. The top three winners will also receive their own Panasonic camera each. Interested individuals may send their entries to Full Circle Communications at 15/F Belvedere Tower, San Miguel Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development - Zamboanga Peninsula
MARGOSATUBIG REGIONAL HOSPITAL
Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur

Project Reference Number:_MRH-001-2007
Name of the Project: **Procurement of Goods**

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **MARGOSATUBIG REGIONAL HOSPITAL,** through its Bids and awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of the Project	:	**Procurement of Goods**
Location	:	**Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur**
Brief Description	:	**Drugs and Medicines, Medical Supplies, Dental Supplies and Laboratory Supplies, X-Ray, Hospital Equipments.**
Approved Budget For the Contract	:	**Fourteen Million (14,000,000.00)**
Contract Duration	:	**Six (6) months**
Delivery Period	:	**Date of delivery is reflected on the approved Purchase Order (P.O.)**

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The Complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 6, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	September 14, 2007
3. Submission of Letter of Intent and Application for Eligibility	September 24, 2007
4. Opening of Bids	September 25, 2007
5. Bid Evaluation	September 26, 2007
6. Post-qualification	October 10-14, 2007
7. Notice of Award	October 15-29, 2007

Bid Documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) to the Margosatubig Regional Hospital Cashier.

The Margosatubig Regional Hospital assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

MARGOSATUBIG REGIONAL HOSPITAL
MR. QUIRINO L. BRIONES, MPA
Acting BAC Secretariat
Poblacion Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur
Contact No. 09209380178

(Sgd.) **DANILO D. ALFARO, M.D**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Sept. 2 & 6, 2007)

Michelis moves to new Greenhills location

MICHELIS, THE TOP BRAND FOR HIGH-QUALITY STERling silver jewelry and accessories, moves its Greenhills branch to a new and better location. Michelis fans can now find their favorite Michelis Greenhills branch to the fresh ambiance, invigorating and bustling 2nd floor of Shoppesville. This new location better showcases Michelis' jewellery. Michelis offers the widest variety of premium sterling silver jewellery for the discriminating market, from the traditional jewellery pieces to extraordinary silver gift items. With this new location, Michelis has also dedicated part of its store to it's new Men's jewellery line: Miche. The move also brings Michelis' products closer and more accessible to loyal patrons and silver jewelry fanatics alike. It is all part of the company's goal to bring to fore the ingenuity and excellence of Filipino craftsmanship not just to global audiences but most importantly, among fellow Filipinos as well. Michelis has been producing world-class silver pieces since the brand's launch in 1998. Other Michelis shops and boutiques can also be found in Greenbelt 1, Lifestyles at the Power Plant, Rustan's Harrison Plaza and Ermita, Rustan's Alabang Town Center, Rustan's Tower Shangri-La Plaza, and at the lobbies of Mandarin Oriental Hotel and Shangri-La Hotel, Makati.

Marist Homecoming

THE SILVER JUBILARIANS OF MARIST SCHOOL CLASS of 1982 present their plans for the Grand Alumni Homecoming on Sept. 8, to Bro. Pat S. Corpus, FMS, president of Marist School in Marikina. The event is presented by HSBC, in cooperation with Globe, Johnnie Walker, and Adidas. Registration starts at 5 p.m. at the Marist Grade School Gym. For inquiries contact Tony Bobis at 0921-6988120.

Finance educators to be cited

FINANCE EDUCATORS WHO HAVE MADE A MARK IN THE lives of Filipino students can now be recognized for their noble efforts through the Rafael B. Buenaventura Outstanding Finance Educator Awards Program which was recently launched at the Hotel Intercontinental. Established under the auspices of the Business Education Committee of the Finex Foundation and Citi Philippines with funding from the Citi Foundation in New York, the awards are open to a Filipino citizen teaching finance and/or finance related courses in a Philippine school that was a finalist in the last preceding Inter-Collegiate Finance Competition (ICFC), according to Federico K. Maramba, chair of the Business Education Committee of the Finex Foundation. Maramba said that "to qualify, a candidate must be nominated by his or her school, has been a full-time finance educator for at least five years, has earned Very Satisfactory ratings during the period, and fulfills other requirements specified in the General Guidelines of the Rafael B. Buenaventura Outstanding Finance Educator Awards Program". The deadline for submission of the application is on Oct. 31. For more details, interested parties may call/write to Finex Foundation, Unite 310 Atrium Bldg, Makati Avenue, Makati City, tel nos. (02) 811-4052, (02)811-4184, (02)811-4186 fax (02)811-4185, e-mail, admin@finex.org.ph.

New US slimming product enters RP

HYDROTRIM, RECENTLY LAUNCHED INTO THE MARKET BY Mega Lifesciences Pty Ltd, is touted as the country's first orange-flavored slimming beverage to the Filipino consumers. The secret to Hydrotrim's success as a slimming drink, however, is not its taste but its active ingredient, Super Citrimax, a propriety formulation made in the United States that comes from the extract of the fruit Garcinia Cambogia and its unique blend in Hydrotrim. The extract contains 70 percent Hydroxycitric Acid, a natural organic acid similar to the one found in citrus fruits like oranges and lemons but with remarkably different properties. While citric acid is beneficial to the human body because it acts as a natural preservative and an antioxidant, Hydroxycitric Acid, when mixed with other naturally occurring chemicals present in Hydrotrim, is better because it burns fat and controls the body's intake of carbohydrates and sugars that are often converted into unsightly flab. Hydrotrim is an easy and convenient way to eliminate fat and maintain figure since it is available in powered format and packaged in sachets and can be prepared in seconds since it easily dissolves in a glass of water, just like a regular orange drink. In order to effectively trim down or maintain lean, healthy bodies, individuals are advised to consume at least two sachets of Hydrotrim everyday, 30 minutes before every meal. The product is also readily available in Mercury outlets and most major drugstores at an affordable price, attesting the company's mission of improving human health by providing quality medicines and health products at the right price. For more information about Hydrotrim and other Mega Lifesciences products, call 02-894-1111 or e-mail hydrotrim.php@megawecare.com.

Bits & Clips

Invincibility for every nation

MAHARISHI MAHESH YOGI INTRODUCED THE TRANSCENdental Meditation technique 50 years ago and has brought enlightenment to millions of people around the world. Today, he is offering invincibility to all the 192 nations of the world. Invincibility for the nation means a life free from negativity, only positivity for the whole population. Affluence and integrity will prevail in national life. Maharishi is inviting the wealthy patriotic citizens of our country to participate in the building of a Tower of Invincibility, a historic monument that will mark the dawn of Invincibility in the Philippines. The 12-story tower, preferably to be built in the best park of the capital city, will have at its base an Invincibility School whose students will create invincibility for the country. The students will receive ideal education and become enlightened leaders of the country. Through Maharishi's Vedic technologies, Transcendental Meditation and the TM-Sidhi program that includes Yogic flying, the students will unfold their full potential as they create an influence of harmony throughout society. Those who will participate by donating funds for the construction of the Tower of Invincibility will be honored as Founders of Invincible Philippines. This tower, standing as a pride of the nation, will perpetuate their names in fulfilling the most desirable requirement of all times - invincibility for a problem-free life. Those interested to participate can contact Dr. Policronio Castillo at (02)633- 1274. Dr. Castillo is chair of the Maharishi Global Administration through Natural Law Foundation of the Philippines Inc, the local organization teaching Transcendental Meditation in the Philippines for the past 33 years.

Nutrilite's global spokesperson

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATHLETICS FEDERATIONS (IAAF) 110-meter hurdles world record holder Liu Xiang has been named global spokesperson for Nutrilite, the world's leading brand of vitamin, mineral and dietary supplements. With this appointment, Liu joins 100 meter sprint world record holder Asafa Powell as the high-profile athletes to represent Nutrilite. The cooperation between Nutrilite and Liu Xiang will be extremely comprehensive. As a leader in research and development on health and nutrition, Nutrilite has fielded scientists who will work closely with the Chinese Track and Field Association to provide Liu with excellent and thorough consulting services. Liu Xiang's story is one of setting and achieving goals. He is looking forward to competing with other world track stars during the year and the much-anticipated 2008 Beijing Olympics. Thanks to a winning partnership with Nutrilite, Liu Xiang definitely looks poised to break and set more records in the coming years. Nutrilite products are exclusively distributed by Independent Business Owners of Amway, a global leader in the direct-selling business.

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Transmission Steel Towers and Line Materials Including Installation for the Restoration of Damaged Portion of the Naga - Tayabas 500kV Transmission Line Project (Sp7.TSTNTTL.Lt-0112)

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO)** through its **Annual Corporate Budget**, intends to apply the sum of **Philippine Peso 198,700,000.00** for the Supply and Delivery of Transmission Steel Towers and Line Materials Including Installation for the Restoration of Damaged Portion of the Naga Tayabas 500kV Transmission Line (Sp07.TSTNTTL.Lt-0112) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the above project. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. **TRANSCO** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the **Supply and Delivery of Transmission Steel Towers and Line Materials Including Installation for the Restoration of Damaged Portion of the Naga - Tayabas 500kV Transmission Line**. Delivery and Installation of the GOODS is required within **240 calendar days from contract effectivity**. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section 1B of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is open to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations, and to Foreign bidders. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine the bid's responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) determined after the conduct of the post-qualification evaluation.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **TRANSCO** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address stated in item 10 starting **September 3, 2007** from **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address stated below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of ***Philippine Peso 20,000.00***. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. **TRANSCO** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **September 26, 2007,** ***9:00 a.m.*** at *C. U. Del Rosario Function Hall B & C, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the venue of the bid opening stated in item 8 on or before **9:00 a.m.** of **October 9, 2007**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and in the amount specified in Section III of the Bidding Documents, BDS. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be held on **October 9, 2007, 9:00 a.m.** at *C. U. Del Rosario Function Hall B & C, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.
9. **TRANSCO** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder/s.
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the BAC Secretariat at the following address:

Mr. Richard D. Nabong
Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department (BCMD)
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Power Center
National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road
1104 Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, PHILIPPINES
Tel. Nos.: (632) 921-2308, 981-2212, 981-2213; Telefax No. (632) 981-2308
Email address: rdnabong@transco.ph
http://www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) **ATTY. NOEL Z. DE LEON**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Aug. 30 & Sept. 6, 2007)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

LICENSE FOR PRIVATE RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT AGENCY

PRPA LICENSE NO. M-07-04-199 ☐ New ☒ Renewal
TIN-005-217-923-000

This license to recruit, process and deploy landbased workers is hereby granted to:

STAFF PROFESSIONALS, INC.
Room 201 Salomon Building,
84 Kamias Road, Quezon City

pursuant to the Labor Code and Omnibus Rules Implementing the Code.

This license shall be valid in the Philippines for the period 28 July 2007 to 27 July 2009 unless sooner revoked, cancelled or suspended for violation of the Labor Code and related issuances. Transfer or use by any other person or entity tenders this license null and void.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of National Capital Region, Department of Labor and Employment, to be affixed at the City of Manila, Philippines, this 18th day of July 2007.

(Sgd.) ISABEL G. PANGANIBAN-ORTIGUERRA
Acting Regional Director

(PDI - Sept. 06, 2007)

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National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
MY COMPANY BPO INT'L., INC. Unit 507 East Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange, Exchange Road, Ortigas, Pasig City	Jae Yeon Cho Korean	Marketing Manager
OMRON PRECISION TECHNOLOGY CO. LTD. 9/F RCBC Plaza, Tower II, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Taro Yamashita Japanese	Overseas Expatriate - Senior Manager
MISS EARTH JEWELRY STORE China City Gold Center Ongpin Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila	Jingjing Lin Chinese	Sales Manager
BILLTOP ARTISTIC METAL DESIGN 653 Tomas Mapua St., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Yu Sun Chinese	Manager
MYFLOT VENTURES, INC. Unit 805-806 One Corporate Plaza Building, Arnaiz Ave., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Jin Han Kim Korean	Customer Care Manager
ZTE PHILIPPINES, INC. 25/F Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Fei Liu Chinese	Technology Support Engineer
OTSUKA (PHILIPPINES) PHARMACEUTICAL, INC. King's Court II Bldg., 2129 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City	Miho Emura Japanese	Executive Assistant
METROBANK CARD CORPORATION 11/F Metrobank Card Center, 6778 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Brian Charles Hartzer Australian	Director
METROBANK CARD CORPORATION 11/F Metrobank Card Center, 6778 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Robert John Edgar Australian	Senior Managing Director
ZTE PHILIPPINES, INC. 25/F Pacific Star Bldg. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Jidong Shi Chinese	Engineer
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Vinita Sachin Jaiswal Indian	Level C/Consultant
ZTE PHILIPPINES, INC. 25/F Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Jiangjiang Wang Chinese	Engineer
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Lisa Mae Clements American	Global Recruiting Team / Manila Recruiting Lead
OHENGLISH SUNSHINE POWER EASY & FUN ENGLISH (PE & FE), INC. 408 Wack-Wack Twin Tower, Wack-Wack Road, Mandaluyong City	Young Hee Choi Korean	Operations Manager
SPORTS BOOKIE ONLINE INC. 24/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City	Mei Ying Ong Malaysian	Technical Support Officer

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

ERRATUM

In the NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S of the DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE-NCR) published Sept. 5, 2007, the name of Thierry Alban Tchelo, Customer Service Representative of IBM BUSINESS SERVICES, INC was misspelled.

(PDI–September 6, 2007)

ISABELA I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Victoria, Alicia, Isabela
Tel. No. (078) 6627103/6627983/6627810
Fax No. (078) 6627103/6627917

The Isabela I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ISELCO I) wishes to invite interested suppliers for Public Bidding for the Supply/Delivery and Rewind/Repair of the following:

	PARTICULARS		QUANTITY
a)	Automatic Voltage Regulator, AVR Control Panel Model: IJ 2A (SIEMENS-ALLIS) Brand new		3 units
b)	Service Drop Wire, Duplex #6 ACSR, 6/1 Local Brands		50,000 meters
c)	Socket Base, Ring Type, 100 Amp. Two 1" hub, 4 jaws		1,000 pcs.
d)	Rewind/Repair & Commissioning of 400 kVA, three phase, 460 Volt generator Weight: 3 tons Note for item d: Site Inspection at Mini-Hydro, Villa Beltran, Ramon		1 unit
e)	Line Fuselink, Universal Button Head Type K, 2-4-6-8-10-12-15-20-25-30 Amp. Brand: HUBBEL - A B CHANCE, S & C		200 pcs. each
f)	Transformer Oil Brand: HIRAX		20 drums
g)	Transformer, Pole Type, Conventional 25 kVA	5 units	
h)	Transformer, Pole Type, Conventional 37.5 kVA	5 units	
i)	Transformer, Poly Type, Conventional 50 kVA	5 units	
j)	Transformer, Pole Type, Conventional, 75 kVA Specification for item g to j: Conventional Distribution Transformer (Brand New) Copper (Primary) to Copper (Secondary), Silicon, Steel Core with Tap Changer, Insulation Class A, Primary Voltage 7.620/13.2 Y KV, Brand: WAGNER	5 units	
k)	Insulator Pin Type (Double Groove) 55-5		400 pcs.
l)	Cut-out with Arrester Combination Brand new Brand: HUBBEL - A B CHANCE		50 sets
m)	3 Bolt Clamp Guy HD		200 pcs.
n)	Eye Nut 5/8		300 pcs.
o)	Swinging Clevis Service		250 pcs.
p)	Shackle Anchor		200 pcs.
q)	Spool Insulator 1 ¾		250 pcs.
r)	Clamp Loop Deadend		250 pcs.
s)	Eye Bolt Oval 5/8x8		200 pcs.
t)	Conductor Bare Wire #2 ACSR (Local Brands)		10,000 mtrs.
u)	Insulated Wire #2 (Local Brands)		5,000 mtrs.
v)	Copper Wire 5 mm		500 mtrs.
w)	Connector Compression YHO 100		200 pcs.
x)	Connector Compression YHO 150		200 pcs.
y)	Connector Compression YHO 200		200 pcs.
z)	Hot Line Clamp		200 pcs.
aa)	Oil Purification & Degasification of 5MVA Substation Power Transformer at Reina Mercedes, Isabela Note for item cc: Contractor shall provide their own generator for three-phase electricity supply		

Interested parties may secure bid documents and checklist of qualification requirements at the office of the PBAC Secretary at the Finance Manager's Office and look for Ms. Leah Garcia or call Tel. No. (078) 6627917 or call Engr. Romeo M. Villacampa at Cel. No. 09189226973.

The schedules of bidding activities are as follows:

PARTICULARS	DATE/TIME
Issuance of bid documents/checklist of qualification requirements	September 07 - September 20, 2007 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Pre-Qualification Conference	September 21, 2007 / 9:00 AM
Submission / Opening of Bids	September 21, 2007 / 1:00 PM

Checklist of Qualification Requirements are the following: (to be submitted during the pre-qualification conference)

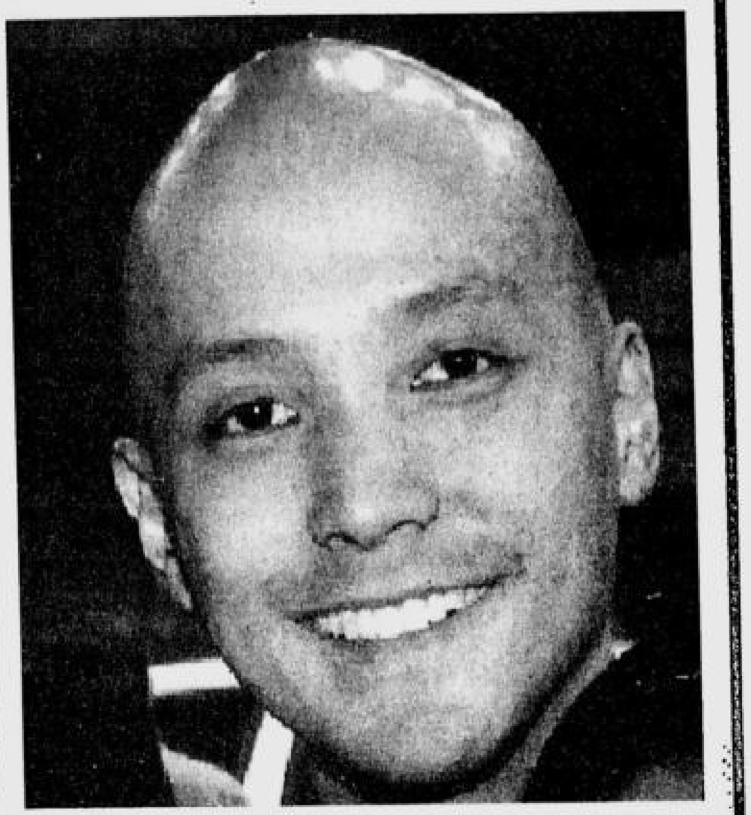
1) Non-refundable filing fee in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos Only (P3,000.00) in the form of cash.
2) Complete set of legal documents of the company, SEC Registration, Articles of Incorporation and by-laws, company profile, business registration and license papers.
3) Audited Financial Statement (Balance Sheet and Income Statement) duly filed/stamped received by BIR.
4) If represented by an agent of the firm, it must have a letter of Authorization from the President/Manager or Owner.
5) A Bid Bond amounting to 10% of the total amount of material and service requirements

The ISELCO I reserves the right to reject any or all bids for valid and justified reason, waive any defect thereon and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the cooperative (ISELCO I), ISELCO I likewise assume no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

(Sgd.) **Mr. Orlando B. Ramil**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI--Sept. 5, 6 & 7, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Please be advised that **REDENTOR "JUN" Q. CAJAYON JR.** is no longer connected with **PGA Cars, Inc.** effective August 15, 2007. Any transaction entered into by the above person for and on behalf of **PGA Cars, Inc.** from the said date shall not be honored.

(PDI--Sept. 6 & 8, 2007)

Republika ng Pilipinas
KAGAWARAN NG KALUSUGAN
PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN SA NUTRISYON
(NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL)
Nutrition Building, 2332 Chino Roces Avenue Extension
Taguig City, Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Nutrition Council (NNC) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Name of Project : Supply of Five (5) Units of Vehicles for Regions – NCR, V, IX, X, XII
Approved Budget for the Contract : P3,900,000.00
Source of Fund : AHMP

Prospective bidders:

1. Must have experience of having completed within the last three (3) consecutive years (August 2004-August 2007), a single contract that is similar to the contract to be bid, whose value must be at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be bid:
   OR:
2. a) the prospective bidder should have completed at least three (3) similar contracts and the aggregate contract amount should be equivalent to at least 50% of the ABC of the project to be bid.
   b) The largest of these similar contracts must be equivalent to at least 25% of the project to be bid;
   c) The company of the prospective bidder has been in experience for at least three (3) consecutive years prior to this advertisement.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the "Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184" otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184.

The schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents and Pre-Bid Conference	September 13, 2007 at 1:00 pm
2. Submission/Receipt/Opening of Eligibility and Bid Envelopes	September 25, 2007 at 1:00 pm

Bid Documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) to NNC Cashier. The award of the project shall be based on the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid received from the Bidders.

The NNC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

For inquiries, please call the BAC Secretariat at telephone Nos. 843-5834, 843-5856 or visit our office at NNC Building, 2332 Chino Roces Avenue Extension, Taguig City.

(Sgd.) CAROLINA BAUTISTA- BATALLONES
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – Sept. 6, 2007)

Keppel **Philippines Marine**

Management Trainee

Keppel Philippines Marine, Inc. (KPMI) is a member of a 20-yard strong global network owned by Singapore-based Keppel Offshore & Marine Ltd., one of the world's largest offshore and marine groups.

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2. **Industrial Engineering**
3. **Civil Engineering**
4. **Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering**
5. **Business Administration**
6. **Accountancy**
7. **Information Technology**
8. **Equivalent courses**

Please send your resumé with supporting credentials via e-mail to "grouphr@keppelpm.com" with the subject "2007 Management Trainee Program." You may also submit your application in person at the address shown below:

Keppel Philippines Marine, Inc.
Unit 3-B Country Space 1 Bldg.
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Salcedo Village
Makati City

Deadline for submission of applications is on 12 September 2007. Qualified applicants will be called to come for an interview on 18 September 2007. Know more about our company by visiting our website at www.keppelphilippinesmarineinc.com.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

C1

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) **or email us at** lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

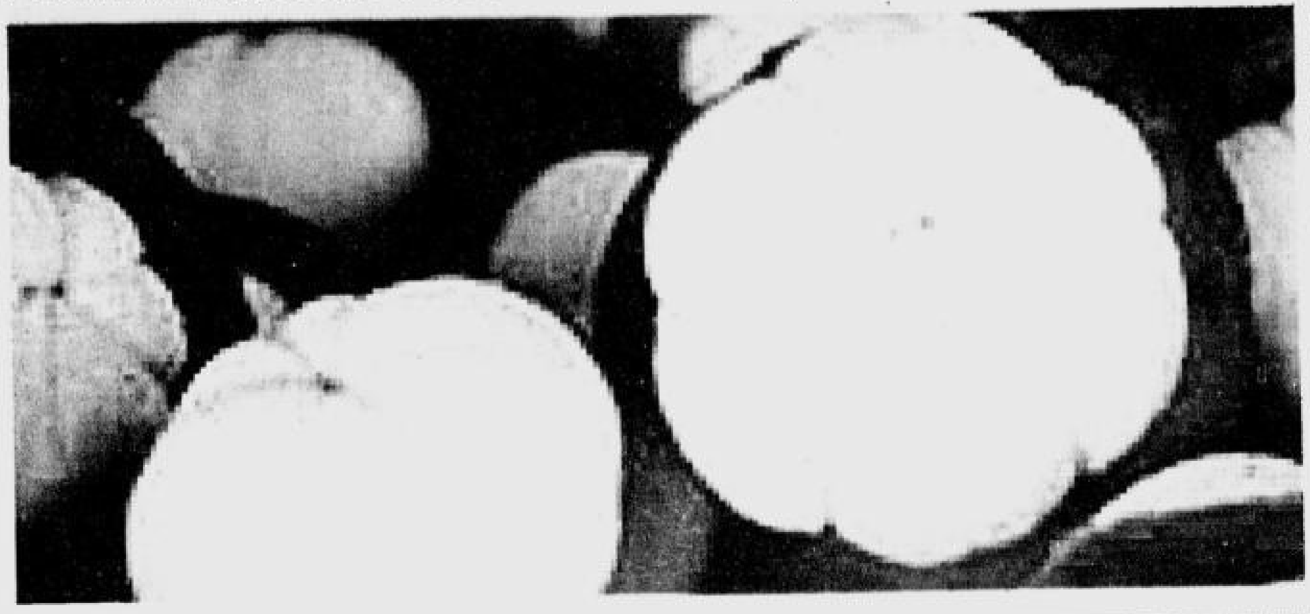
TOMORROW

- The fourth Master of Design
- Endless summer fashion

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Step-by-step** Pinoy Paella /C4
- **Haute couture** desserts /D4

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ◉ TUESDAY **FITNESS** ◉ WEDNESDAY **2BU** ◉ THURSDAY **FOOD** ◉ FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**



MANGOSTEEN is probably the most coveted fruit from Southeast Asia at present.

PHOTO FROM WWW.HEPALTA.COM/MANGOXAN/INGREDIENTS_OF_MANGOXAN.HTML

Its flavor is complex—sweet, sour, creamy, plus it contains all the good stuff that promotes good health

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

The queen becomes an international star

CAN YOU TELL ME HOW TO MAKE MANGOSteen puree/juice since I grow fruits in my farm and I want to put up a business such as chilled juice blends?

ROSELLER MIYAKE

Mangosteen, queen to durian's king, is perhaps the most coveted fruit from Southeast Asia in the international market today, selling for as much as US$45 per pound in specialty food stores in New York. No fruit to date can be more in vogue.

What makes mangosteen so fashionable? For starters, no fruit is as complex in flavor: sweet, sour, creamy, containing all the good stuff that promotes good health.

A many splendored thing indeed is the queen! It contains xanthones, known to science as the most powerful of antioxidants, substances that combat disease-causing oxygen free radicals.

It is said there are 210 xanthones in nature and more than 40 are found in mangosteen. Remarkably, it is the whole fruit, not just the flesh, that is packed with xanthones.

Since 600 AD, mangosteen has been known as a healing agent and was used by scribes in Southeast Asia. The rind was sliced and dried, pulverized and taken as an herbal concoction; for external use, it was made into an ointment. The rind was also steeped in water overnight and drank as tea.

Though some studies say the health benefits of mangosteen have not been established conclusively, many swear by its healing powers.

According to Dr. Ray Sahelian, MD, studies point out "mangosteen has compounds with antioxidant, antibacterial, antifungal, and antitumor activity. Laboratory testing thus far indicates that extracts of mangosteen have activity against several cancer cell lines including breast, liver and leukemia. Mangosteen also appears to have antihistamine and anti-inflammatory properties."

Personally, I think you do not lose anything if you use it as a supplement.

Whether or not the fruit is all that it is heralded to be, the fact remains that England's Queen Victoria offered a knighthood to anyone who could present her the mangosteen. In the end, as far as this purple gem is concerned, it is the flavor that makes for all its splendor.

Here are your recipes. I don't know if you wanted a fruit juice or the juice that consists of the rind. Hope it's fruit juice you're searching for.

To prepare pulp:

Remove fruit pericap/peel and separate fruit from seed.

Store in an airtight container.

Freeze pulp until needed.

Mangosteen Juice

1/3 c mangosteen pulp

½ c simple syrup (1 c water/1½ c sugar, boil until slightly thick)

1 c crushed ice

Process in a blender. Serve garnished with mint leaves.

Blended Juice Drink

1/3 c mangosteen pulp

1/3 c milk or yogurt

sugar, honey or syrup

Process in a blender. Serve garnished with mint leaves.

And this, though not a drink, remains one of my favorite things to do with mangosteen.

THE QUEEN/ C3

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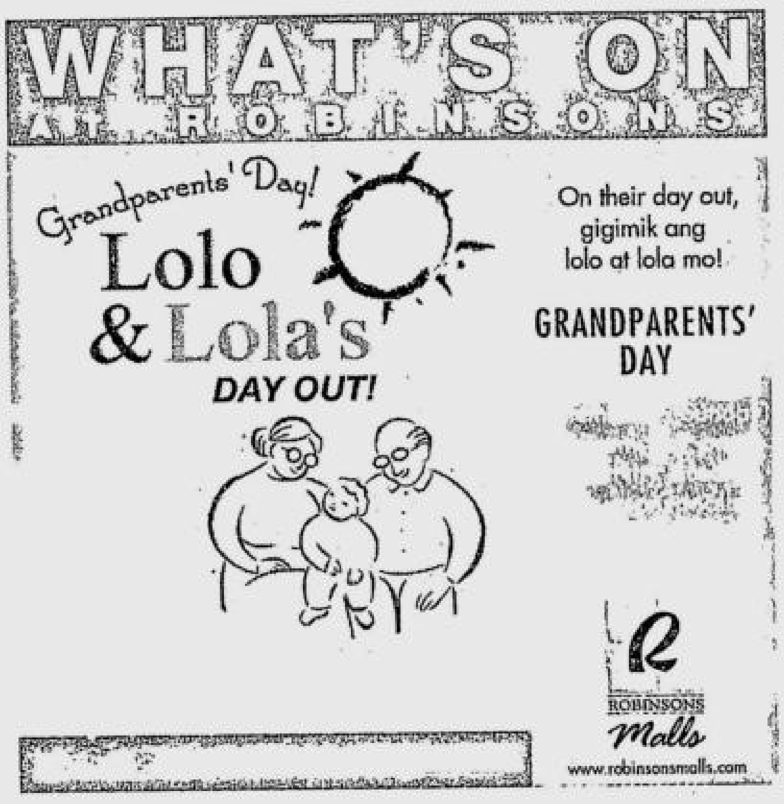

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

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GRANDPARENTS' DAY

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0921 4669423	0918 3912510	0917 8224399	0915 8804668	0915 8797217	0917 8261204

H.V.DELA COSTA	LEGASPI VILL	MEGAMALL	PASAY ROAD	PASIG	SM NORTH	SUBIC
Emily	Lani	Ruby	Maan	Abbie	Michelle	Beth
8140138/8140151	8938935	6313869/6377543	8871335/8873530	6815333/6473816	9295429/9264215	2526514
0928 2107247	0928 9719938	0916 2479753	0915 6893088	0928 4763108	0905 2690717	0928 6712299

Sautéing made easy

KNOWN FOR ITS LINE OF healthy and tasty sauces, mixes and other cooking ingredients, Mama Sita's now makes the age-old practice of sautéing easier and faster without sacrificing flavor.

With Mama Sita's Pang Gisa Mix, housewives and working moms need not chop, slice and dice to come up with great-tasting *ginisa*. Cooking is as easy as opening a packet.

Mama Sita's Pang Gisa Mix is made from natural ingredients, like pure chicken extract and choice spices, organically grown by small farmers in villages and communities. It has no MSG.

The blend of spices and ingredients in the Pang Gisa Mix follows the secret recipe of Teresita "Mama Sita" Reyes, founder of Mama Sita's.

A budget-friendly, premium product, Pang Gisa Mix can make even plain or fried rice more exciting. It also provides a rich essence to soups and broths. It is available in 10-g packets.

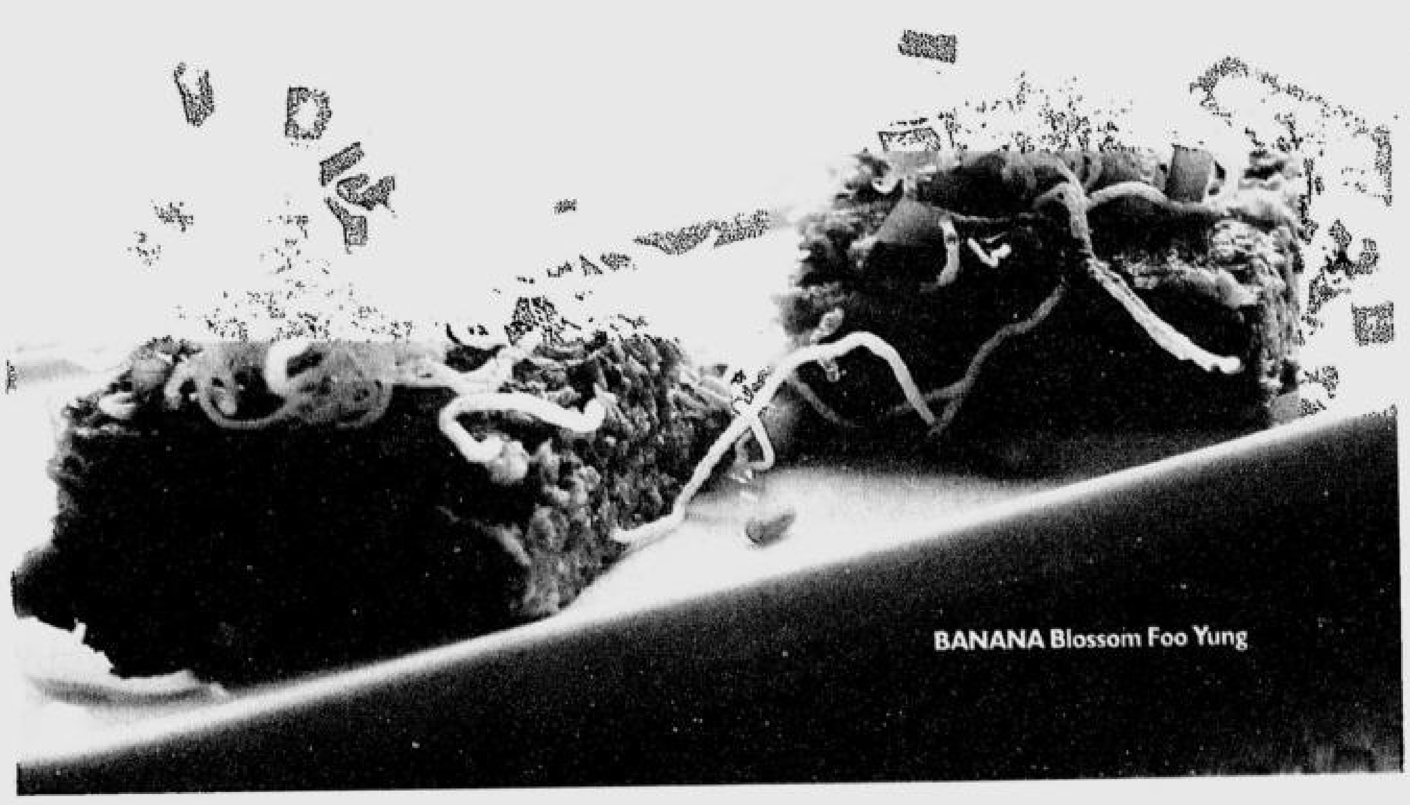
Mama Sita shares the Following recipes using Pang Gisa Mix with INQUIRER readers.

Banana Blossom Torta

(Makes 6 servings)
2 tbsp vegetable oil
1 pc onion, chopped
4 cloves garlic, minced
1 pc *puso ng saging* (*haba*), minced
1 pouch Mama Sita's Pang Gisa Sauté Mix
1 tbsp *wansoy*, fresh
1 tbsp *cuchay*, chopped
3 pc eggs, medium-size, beaten
1 tbsp spring onions, chopped
¾ cup *singkamas* chopped

1. Sauté the garlic and onions and add the banana blossoms.
2. Mix in Mama Sita's Pang Gisa Mix to intensify the flavor of the ingredients.
3. Add *singkamas*, *wansoy* and *cuchay*. Sauté for a minute.
4. Remove from heat. Set aside to cool before adding eggs and spring onions.
5. Pan-fry the mixture until golden brown.
6. Serve hot with Brown Sauce.
7. Garnish with spring onions, red bell peppers, and fried *bihon*.

GINATAANG Santol



BANANA Blossom Foo Yung

Brown Sauce

1¼ c water
1 tbsp sugar
4 tbsp oyster sauce
2 tsp cornstarch
3 cloves garlic, chopped
1 tbsp ginger, grated
1 tbsp spring onions, chopped
1 tbsp oil, vegetable

1. Heat oil and sauté garlic until white.
2. Add rest of the ingredients and cook until thick.
3. Serve hot with Banana Blossoms Foo Yung.

Ginataang Santol

(Makes 4-5 servings)
9 pc *santol* pulp, peeled, seeded and diced
1½ c water
1 c *kakang gata*
1 pc *siling pang sigang*, sliced diagonally
1 pouch Mama Sita's Pang Gisa Sauté mix
Siling labuyo for garnish

1. Soak the *santol* in water (to prevent darkening). Set aside.
2. Combine water and ½ cup *kakang gata* in a casserole or pan. Bring to a boil with constant stirring.
3. Drain the *santol* and squeeze out the water, then add *santol*.
4. Add the *sili* and Mama Sita's Pang Gisa mix. Cook over low heat with constant stirring until thick.
5. Add the remaining *gata* and cook for a minute. (Don't overcook to avoid curdling the sauce).
6. Serve hot immediately.

Chefs' secrets revealed

SAN MIGUEL PURE Foods-Great Food Solutions (SMPF-GSF) brings back one of the country's top culinary experts, Chef Heny Sison, to share her culinary expertise once more at this year's Asia Food Expo Sept. 5-8 at the World Trade Center, Pasay.

Together with Sison, distinguished Japanese, Korean and Filipino chefs from the Heny Sison Culinary School will feature various products of San Miguel Pure Foods in an array of mouthwatering creations, ranging from authentic Oriental dishes to the most sinful of desserts.

Aptly titled "Favorite Restaurant and Café Recipes: Decoding the Chefs' Secrets," the audience will surely make tasty discoveries in the cooking and baking demo Sept. 8, 1:30 p.m., as the guest chefs reveal the secrets behind favorite restaurant and café recipes, while whipping together a sumptuous feast at the Afex main activity area.

Budding food entrepreneurs and food and cooking enthusiasts are encouraged to drop by our Business Opportunities Series Sept. 6, 2:30 p.m., as San Miguel Pure Foods Great Food Solutions share trade secrets which would definitely add to their food knowledge and skills, and give an extra boost to business.

"We encourage food enthusiasts to come and explore opportunities on how San Miguel Pure Foods GFS, the total food solutions provider of the top industry players for food chains, hotels, caterers, and restaurants, can help them in their business operations," said Helene Pontejos, GFS general manager.

"Our team of food experts will be there to help them identify solutions to grow their business better, and establish a distinct characteristic for their food offerings for their own clients."

"From cooking and baking demonstrations to opportunities to sample great-tasting and easy-to-do recipes crafted by the chefs from the San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center using San Miguel branded food products such as Pure Foods Hormel, Magnolia, Monterey, San Mig Coffee, San Miguel Mills Pre-mixes, and Great Food Solutions Cook Express," Pontejos promises these exciting activities that await attendees of this year's Asia Food Expo.

The 16th International Exposition on Food Processing, Packaging and Handling Machinery, Equipment and Technology will house together a comprehensive showcase of food facilities and expertise—from the best of the country's food equipment and top food ingredients manufacturers and suppliers, to culinary activities and demonstrations.

THE CONSUMER

A game no longer worthy of generals

The glistening metal pieces with artistic etchings and beautiful wooden case are gone

By Linda B. Bolido

READER JERA SISON IS DISMAYED BY the "shabby" treatment Filipinos give to local inventions.

He notes "the sad plight of our homegrown Filipino inventors and to think that the unfair treatment is coming from their own *kalahi, kapwa* Filipino."

Sison is referring in particular to the Game of the Generals (GG) invented by the late Ronnie Pasola Jr., as an alternative to the foreign game board chess.

"I clearly remember the first time I saw a set of the GG. It was packaged [like] a chessboard... contained in a wooden case... with square boxes in gray and white," he says.

"Inside are [flat metal pieces marked] with different military ranks. The game is very simple but interesting to play... It's a mind game similar to poker," Sison adds.

But the "new" version of the GG is a disappointment, he says. The glistening metal pieces with artistic etchings are gone, as well as the beautiful wooden case.

"What are being sold now are mediocre plastic or metal pieces and paper markers... With the substandard quality of products ... now being manufactured, how can one expect brilliant [Filipino] inventions to be recognized and appreciated by present or future generations?" Sison asks.

The new version, he says, is made of cheap plastic. "I can only imagine the annoyance of players using this kind of inferior light materials. A sudden gust of wind... will totally 'annihilate' the game, toppling everything."

Sison says whoever owns the rights to manufacture the GG, "proudly a product of Filipino creativity," should redesign the game and "do justice to its inventor. I hope this is not a reflection of the current state of the Filipino's sense of patriotism."

Feedback

It seems many people share our sentiments about the setup in our airports.

Reader Virgie Velasco said, "I felt good having found someone who is also wondering why the efficient taxi system implemented in the domestic airport is not being implemented at the Centennial Airport.

"Many times I have to wait for an hour or longer to get a taxi [presumably at the departure area of international airports where metered taxis are allowed]. Even if I arrive ahead of the others, it is a free-for-all, [people jostling to get ahead of the rest, with taxis stopping anywhere their passenger wants to get off]. Some taxis also refuse to take you for various reasons.

"The coupon taxis are very expensive. They are clean, comfortable and fast, but expensive. [Can't] the Centennial Airport management do something about this? Where do we complain... ?"

Ed T. Brondial said, "One word sums it up for me [at the domestic airport], it's convenience. You have a choice when it comes to the taxi and it's nearer. And it's relatively efficient. That's why given the choice, I'd take Cebu Pacific or Air Phil just because of the terminal."

Both Velasco and Brondial will be happy to know that something is being done about the transport system in the other airports.

Alfonso G. Cusi, Manila International Airport Authority general manager, wrote to say "we are well on [the way to having] metered taxis in the other terminals."

He said, "We are targeting by the last quarter of this year to provide the airport with metered taxis to give passengers [an] alternative transport service."

The efficient system at the domestic airport, he said, would also be implemented at the two international terminals "in line with our commitment to provide security, safety, comfort and convenience" to travelers.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph

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COOKING CLASSES

From Korean cooking to rice toppings

THE REGGIE ASPIRAS SCHOOL OF Culinary Arts offers the following classes:

Sept. 7—Korean 101: Kalbi-Chim (Korean beef rib stew), Korean Barbecue (pork, beef, chicken, seafood), Kimchi Rice, Chap Chae (Korean-style stir-fried noodles), mixed vegetables

Sept. 8—Breakfast Buffet '07 (special class, all new): Carrot Muffins with Cream Cheese Butter, Home-smoked Salmon with Cucumber Cream and Seafood Omelette and Popovers, Maple Chicken with Fluffy Pancakes, Pancake Dogs with Flavored Mustards and Syrups, Breakfast Steaks with Garlic Toast and Eggs Carbonara, Fruit Pudding

Sept. 10—Paella Filipina: Taba ng Talangka Paella with Mixed Seafood and Asian Vegetables, Paksiw na Pata Paella with Stewed Banana Blossom and Lakatan Relish, Bistek Tagalog Paella with Caramelized Shallots in Lemon Soy Dressing, Capsicum Afritada and Saffron Paella, Arroz a la Cubana Paella with Taro-dipped Fried Bananas

Sept. 12—Traditional Binalot Class: Fried Pork and Adobo Flakes with Chicharon Chips and Salted Egg Relish, Guinataang Sugpo and Gabi with Bagoong Rice, Tilapia with Shrimp Paste-roasted Tomatoes and Caramelized Onions and Talaba Rice, Nilagang Tadyang na Baka with Pandan Rice, Bulalo Steak with Fried Bulalo Rice and Mushroom Gravy with Spring Vegetables

New class schedules are out for September-October. Call 9289296, 9273008 or 6335162.

Cooking and baking classes

Dorothy's Cooking School will offer cooking and baking classes starting Sept. 8.

Gourmet dishes like roast duck with peaches and whole fish baked in salt will be taught as part of a festive menu on Sept. 8. Dishes for potluck such as roast pork with coffee mandarin glaze and baked rack of lamb with fruit and nut pilaf will be featured Sept. 15.

Baking classes featuring Christmas giveaways such as chocolate espresso bars, macadamia nut tart in chocolate crust will be covered Sept. 12 while pecan rum cake, brownies with *dulce de leche* and other saleable goodies will be featured Sept. 19.

Bread-making from scratch, including potato bread with rosemary, chocolate babka, panettone and other holiday breads, will be taught Sept. 17.

Dorothy's School in New Manila, Quezon City, is owned by culinary expert and cookbook author Dorothy Ferreria. Call 7217735 and 4167968.

Rice toppings

Maya Kitchen combines rice with favorite home processed meats in Flavored Rice & Meat Toppings Sept. 8, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Featured are restaurant favorites like garlic rice, pineapple rice, *adobo* rice, and saffron rice with preservative-free meats such as *tapa* tips, *tocino*, native *longganisa* and crispy corned beef.

Fundamentals of Bakery Production will be offered Sept. 11-14, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. It covers baking techniques, including the use of ready mixes, yeast, bread, quick breads, pies, cookies and cakes. Participants each get a free baking cookbook.

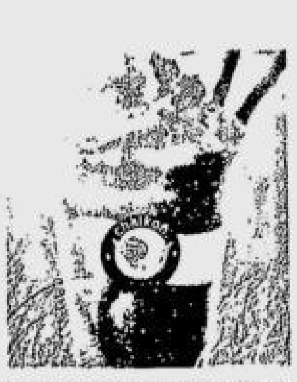
Chinese Cooking, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Sept. 15, will cover Pata Tim, Chinese Lumpia, *siomai*, *kikiam*, Pork Spareribs with Black Beans, Chinese Stuffed Chicken, almond jelly.

Meringue Desserts, Sept. 15, 2-6 p.m., will include Sansrival, Sylvannas, Brazo de Mercedez, Lemon Meringue Pie, with Chocolate Custard as bonus.

Basic Culinary, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sept. 18-21, is for anyone who wants to develop basic cooking skills. Enrollees get a free cookbook.

Maya Kitchen (open Tuesday-Saturday) is at 8/F, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (formerly Pasay Road), Makati; 8921185, 8925011 local 108; e-mail mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph.

MOONCAKE FEST
Xin Tian Di Restaurant on the fourth level of Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila celebrates Chinese Mid-Autumn this month with an assortment of mooncakes and pastries. Executive chef Sam Lee also offers the modern version, Snow Mooncakes, in mango, banana, orange, *pandan* and vanilla flavors. Also in the lineup is Ube Ice Cream snow mooncake. All mooncakes are on exhibit at Crowne Plaza lobby, 4/L, foyer near Xin Tian Di; and 4/F, Atrium entrance from Robinsons Galleria Mall. Call 6337222 or 6337111.



WELCOME the "Ber" month with the Jungle Bungle, ice-blended black tea laced with coconut syrup of *azucar rossada* and sweetened milk capped with vanilla ice cream and whipped cream, coconut flakes, and chocolate sticks. It is available in Chaikofi Mall of Asia, Robinsons Manila, Robinsons Galleria and The Block at SM North.

LA COMIDA
Bibingka

The queen . . .

From page C1

Ice Cream

1½ c heavy cream
½ c milk
6 large egg yolks
½ c sugar
1 c mangosteen pulp, pureed

- Combine cream and 1 c of the milk in a large heavy saucepan. Bring to a gentle boil over medium heat.
- In a slow and steady stream, whisk 1 c of the hot cream mixture into the egg mixture.

Gradually whisk the egg mixture back into the saucepan.

Stir mixture constantly over medium-low heat until the mixture thickens enough to coat the back of a spoon or 170°F on a thermometer.

Strain custard into a heat-proof medium bowl. Add mangosteen.

Cover bowl with clingwrap and cool.

Churn following ice cream maker's instructions.

La Comida Bibingka

My family loves *lechon* but we are tired of those that can be ordered. Do you have any new finds of a different sort?

MICHAEL ANGELO REYES

A few months back, I discovered Lynster's Lechon (0917-8975966). What they make is the Indonesian type. Recently however, they came up with a new variant, garlic!

I served it for lunch when Australian celebrity chef Luke Mangan, who is currently doing a gustatory tour of Asia for his television special, came to my house.

According to Luke, it was the best pork he had had in the category. Nice, tender and succulent!

Another thing that I served that could be of interest to you was *bibingka* and *puto bumbong*! So *sarap*. They can go to your house and do it all for you! (Call La Comida at 4260471 and 9276984)

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph

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COOKING CLASSES

September 04, Tuesday - HOMEMADE HOLIDAY GIFTS 1. Chef Gino will teach bottled goodies that are perfect for Christmas give-aways. Recipes include Puttanesca, Salsa, Nacho Cheese Dip, Cilantro Pesto, Classic Pesto, Salad Dressing, Toblerone Fondue and many more. Gift wrapping ideas included for P1,500.00 including ingredients from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m

September 05, Wednesday - CIAO MANILA, PART 2. A sequel to Chef Lawrence's successful Italian Pasta class, now he will teach us more kinds of Italian pasta: the recipes are Mushroom & Anchovy Canapes, Minestrone, Grilled Chicken & Fusilli Salad, Vegetable Fritata, Chicken Parmigiana, Gnocchi in Tomato Sauce and Spaghetti alla Carbonara. For P1,500 from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m. **NEW CLASS.**

September 06, Thursday - MEAT ME IN THE KITCHEN. Calling all beef lovers... Time to explore the infinite possibilities of this protein rich ingredient. In this class Chef Gino will teach you Beef Stroganoff, Asian Beef Shortribs Stew, Orange Scented US Beef Belly, Arroz alla Cubana with Quezo de Bola Rice, Argentinian Style Steak and Meatloaf with Gravy For P1,800.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m. **NEW CLASS.**

September 11, Tuesday - CATERING AND ENTERTAINING SPECIALS. Let Chef Gino teach you recipes that can be used for Catering events and parties. Recipes include Waldorf Salad, Mixed Mushroom Parmesan Pasta, Chicken Croquettes with Honey Mustard Garlic Sauce, Lapu-lapu with Caper Buerre Blanc, Pork Roast Stuffed with Port Wine Gravy and Mango Crepe Surprise for P2,000.00 from 11:00 - 4:00 p.m.

September 13, Thursday - SPANISH TAPAS FOR A COCKTAIL PARTY. Learn Spanish Tapas for a Cocktail Party, the recipes will be demonstrated by Chef Betina Legarda of Gourmet's Palate. The recipes are Fruited White Sangria, Bacalao Al Ajo (Garlic Bacalao Tapas), Tomates Rellenos de Bonito (Tuna Tomatitos), Pinchitos Morunos (Meat Kebabs - Pork), Mejilliones Con Chorizo (Mussels and Chorizo), Tartar de Atun (Tuna Tartar), Lamb Meatballs (Almondigas de Cordero) for P1,800.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. **NEW CLASS.**

September 14, Friday - ALL ABOUT CHICKEN PART 2. New set of chicken recipes from Chef Jenny Tan for the whole family and friend to enjoy, the recipes are Chicken Taco, Chicken Noodle Salad, Chicken Vegetable Soup, Chicken with Herbed Butter Wrap, Green Chicken Curry and Brown Rice with Chicken from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m. including all ingredients for P1,500.00. **NEW CLASS.**

September 15, Saturday - A TASTE OF VIETNAM 1. Learn delicious Vietnamese Cuisine from Nga Nguyen de Lemos, owner of Vietnamese Food House. Recipes include Pho Bo (Beef Noodle Soup), Goi Cuon (Fresh Springrolls with Shrimp and Pork), Pho Ap Chao (Fried Rice Stick noodles with Squid and Shrimps), Cha Ca Thang Long (Grilled Fish with Dill), Goi Rau Muong Thit Bo (Swamp Cabbage with Sautéed Beef Salad) and Che Bap (Sweet Corn with Coconut Milk) for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m.

September 16, Sunday - SOUTHERN COOKING. Southern style cooking and recipes from our Halal and Pastry Chef, Chef Jenny Tan, the recipes include Corn Soup, Cheese Enchilada, Chicken Fried Steak with Cream Gravy, Baby Back Ribs, Mexican Rice and Drunken Bananas for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m. **NEW CLASS.**

September 17, Monday - HOMEMADE HOLIDAY GIFTS 2. Once again Chef Gino will teach another set of bottled goodies that are perfect for Christmas giveaways. Recipes include Violet Crumble, Boursin, Butter Caramel Sauce, Homemade Whole Grain Mustard, Nougat, Dried Tomatoes in Oil and Cheese Log for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 - 3:00 pm.

September 18, Tuesday - CATERING AND ENTERTAINING SPECIALS 2. Once again, Chef Gino will teach you more recipes that are good for Catering events and parties. Recipes include Grape, Olive and Anchovy Salad; Beef Lasagna; Seabass Meuniere Braised in Sauce Nantua; Gino's Baby Back Ribs; Potatoes Dauphinoise and Dolce Tostada for P2,000.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 - 4:00 p.m.

September 21, Friday - EASY COCKTAIL AND PARTY DISHES, PART 1. Simple and easy to do cocktail and party dishes will be demonstrated by Chef Jenny Tan. The recipes are Beef Croquette, Garlic Mushroom, Baked Mussels, Pan-Grilled Pork Steak with Balsamic Shallot Sauce, Chicken Fajitas and Sirloin with Brown Gravy for P1,500 including all ingredients from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m. **NEW CLASS.**

September 22, Saturday - GIFTS FROM THE KITCHEN. Chef Gene prepares an array of Holiday gifts your friends will appreciate and that are easy to prepare even in the shortest possible time. Classic favourites such as Vela de Lomo, Gourmet Tuyo, Grilled White Cheese, Aceitunas Aliñadas, Dulong in Olive oil and Mufuletta. P1,500.00 from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m. Recipes include all ingredients

September 23, Sunday - DELICIOUS & HEALTHY CRACKERS & DIPS. Delicious and healthy snacks will be demonstrated by our Pastry Chef Hannah Herrera for us to enjoy and learn. The recipes are Whole Wheat Crackers, White Saltime Crackers, Black and White Healthy Crackers, Smoked Salmon Pate, Mushroom Pate, Basil pesto and Tomato-Basil Tapenade for P1,500.00 from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m

BAKING CLASSES

September 01, Saturday - CHOCOLATE TEMPTATIONS. This class is a must for anyone with a passion to create a dazzling chocolate desserts. Chef Adoree Chong-Uy will demonstrate a variety of specialties like Double Chocolate Rum Cake, Fudgy Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Blitz Torte, Flourless Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Peanut Butter Dome and Graham Chocolate Roulade for P1,800.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

September 08, Saturday - CHEESECAKES: WITH A DIFFERENCE. Chef & Food Columnist Adoree Chong-Uy will present new ways to prepare cheesecakes. Recipes include Ube Mousse Cheesecake, Langka Cheesecake, Mango Cheesecake, Dalandan Curd Cheesecake, Pandan Cheesecake and Green Tea Cheesecake for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD CALL AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE THE CLASS FOR RESERVATION.

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Classes will start on October. Schedule for TTHS 10:00 - 4:00 and 5:00 - 11:00 pm. Enrollment is ongoing. For inquiries and reservations, call 726-9326 or 725-5089 and look for Marilyn Espino, Paul Tee or Glady Zamora.

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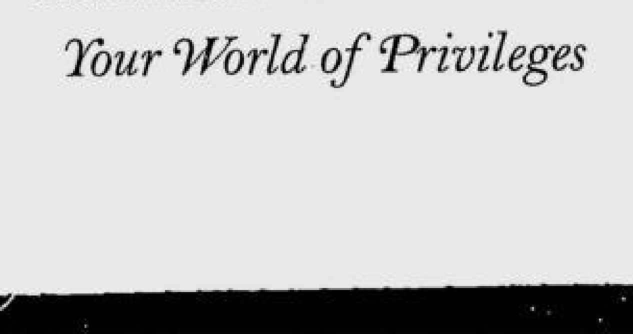

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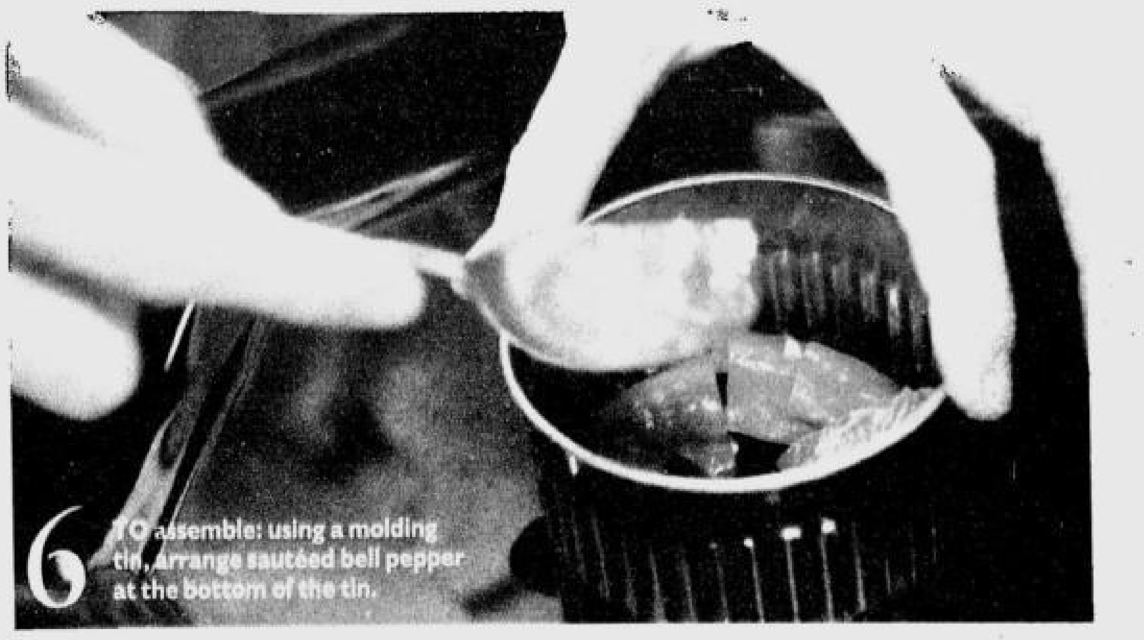
4

ADD the coconut milk, stirring constantly.

5 **BRING** to a boil, then lower heat. Continue cooking until almost all liquid has evaporated. Adjust seasoning by adding fish sauce. Add bell pepper cubes and lemon grass. Stir once in a while to prevent burning.



6 TO assemble: using a molding tin, arrange sautéed bell pepper at the bottom of the tin.

3

ADD *malagkit*, stir and cook for 10 minutes.

2

HEAT oil in saucepan. Sauté garlic and onions over high heat. Add chicken pieces and cook until chicken is slightly browned. Add *patis*, pepper, *dilaw* and water, if needed.

1

CLEAN *malagkit*, washing and draining the grains thrice. Set aside.

The Pinoy paella

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

IF PAELLA IS FOR SPAIN, Bringhe is for the Philippines.

Indeed, Bringhe has become the local counterpart of the famed Spanish paella. Like the paella, it is cooked with rice, although the sticky variety or *malagkit* is used.

It has chicken, pork and vegetables cooked in coconut milk. Instead of the pricey saffron the Spaniards use for paella, turmeric (or *dilaw*) is added to Bringhe to give it a greenish-yellow color and distinctive flavor.

This mouth-watering Pampango dish is a popular offering in most Pinoy festive occasions. It is prepared with different ingredients to give it a unique taste.

Some put chicken liver and gizzard, while others add Vienna sausage, potatoes, raisins, carrots or peas. (What gets into the dish seems to depend on the mood and taste of the cook.)

Bringhe is traditionally cooked in banana leaves so the rice does not stick to the pan. The leaves also give it a special aroma.

Bringhe is usually served on the table with the banana leaves.

Here is a special version of Bringhe from Jam Mendoza, chef instructor of the American Hospitality Academy Philippines (tels. 8927372 and 8927702), the first American culinary school in the country.

Mendoza's Bringhe was taken from the recently launched book "Foodlore and Flavors: Inside the Southeast Asian Kitchen."

The latest project of the publishing and design group ArtPost Asia, the book features essays and contributions from 14 international culinary experts and food writers from the region. INQUIRER food columnist Micky Fenix wrote the portion on the Philippines, including the traditional Bringhe.

"Bringhe is such a rich concoction of glutinous rice and turmeric-flavored chicken steamed in banana leaves," says Mendoza. "But, in this recipe, we try to present it in a unique, classy way. We call it nouvelle Pinoy cuisine. We use the traditional ingredients but we get rid of the banana leaves."

Mendoza serves and arranges Bringhe on individual platters with all the garnishing you can imagine to make it visually more appetizing and tempting.

The result is a mound of lovely gold-hued rice with tender chicken and topped with colorful vegetables.

Ingredients

1 c *malagkit* rice
500 ml coconut milk, freshly squeezed
30 ml cooking oil
5 g garlic, minced
50 g onions, chopped
½ pc chicken parts
30 ml *patis* (fish sauce)
20 g *luyang dilaw* (turmeric juice)
1 pc banana leaves
160 g bell pepper, red green
pinch of ground black pepper
lemon grass, crushed

Garnish:

2 pc hard-boiled eggs, sliced
chopped tomatoes

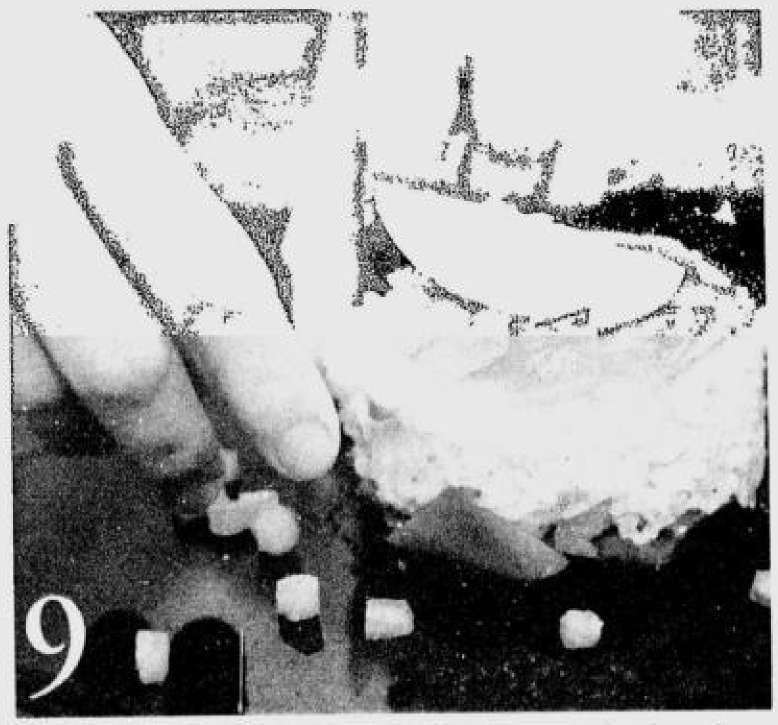
For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

7

ADD Bringhe, pressing it firmly into the mold.

8

REMOVE tin and again top with bell pepper.



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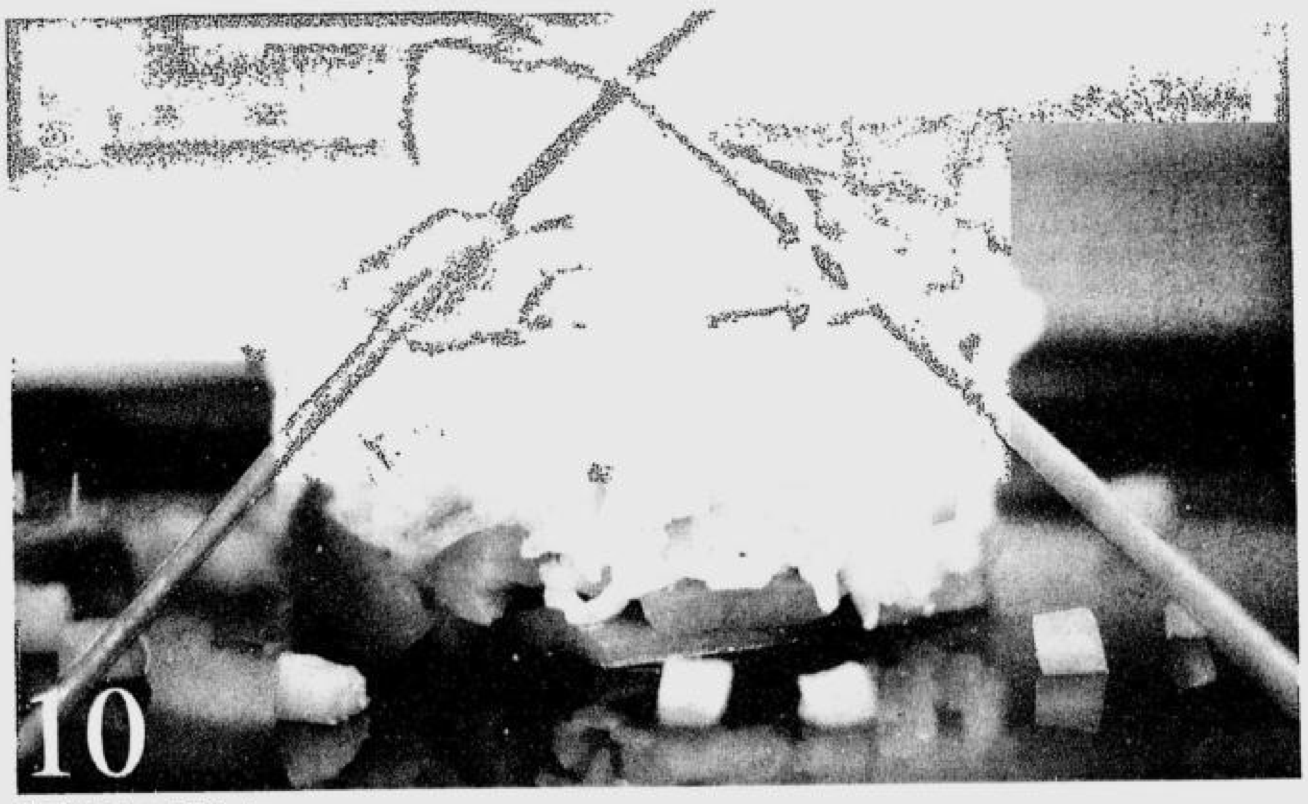
GARNISH with hard-boiled egg, chopped tomatoes and spring onions.



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NICELY plated Bringhe

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Taste of Iloilo in Manila

FRESKA BRINGS TO MANILA the ambiance of lazy Sunday lunches in the beaches of Iloilo.

Following the success of its stall in Tiendesitas, it set up its first stand-alone restaurant along Katipunan Avenue, and its third outlet at the 2/L of Promenade, Greenhills.

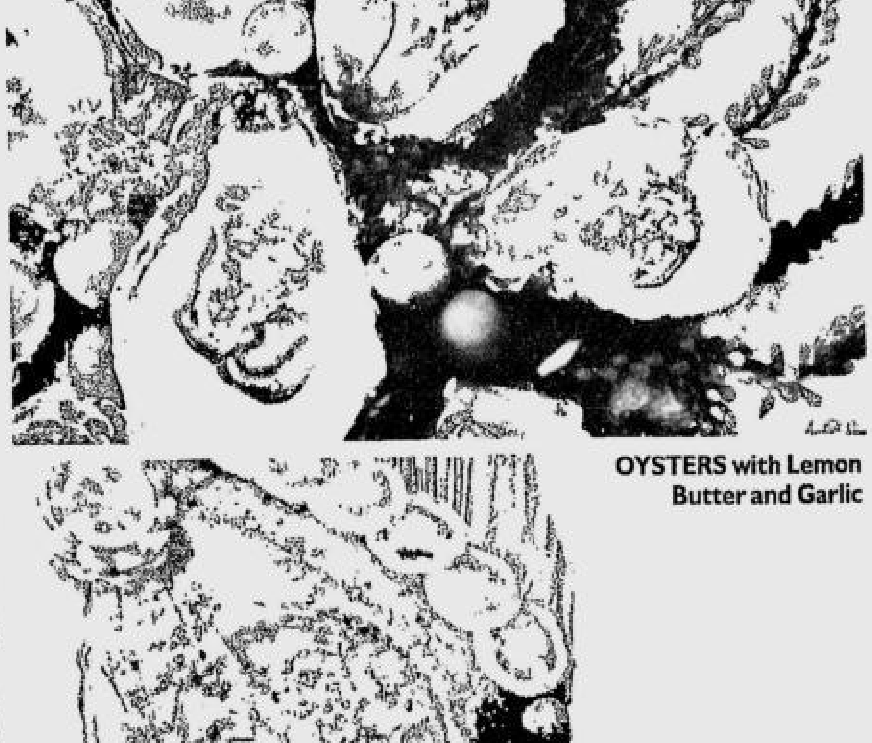
Freska's simple grilled selections use the freshest ingredients and choice spices.

Bestsellers include Grilled Scallops with Lemon Butter Sauce, Baked Oysters with Two Cheese, Sizzling Giant Stuffed Squid, Adobadong Hito, and its signature dish, Grilled Managat (Visayan Mangrove Snapper).

The restaurant also offers non-seafood choices like Chicken Inasal, Mango Salad with Red Eggs and Tomatoes, Lato (seaweed from Palawan), Kadios-Baboy at Langka.

The restaurant is run by Ilongga chef Pauline Gorriceta-Banusing, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America and the Institute of Culinary Education in Manhattan, New York.

Freska showcases the best of Iloilo's culinary traditions.



OYSTERS with Lemon Butter and Garlic

GRILLED Managat (Snapper)

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle
Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message
to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Bless this homecooking

REMEMBER WHEN we all looked forward to fiestas in Pampanga? All dishes, no matter how simple, always had that special flavor.

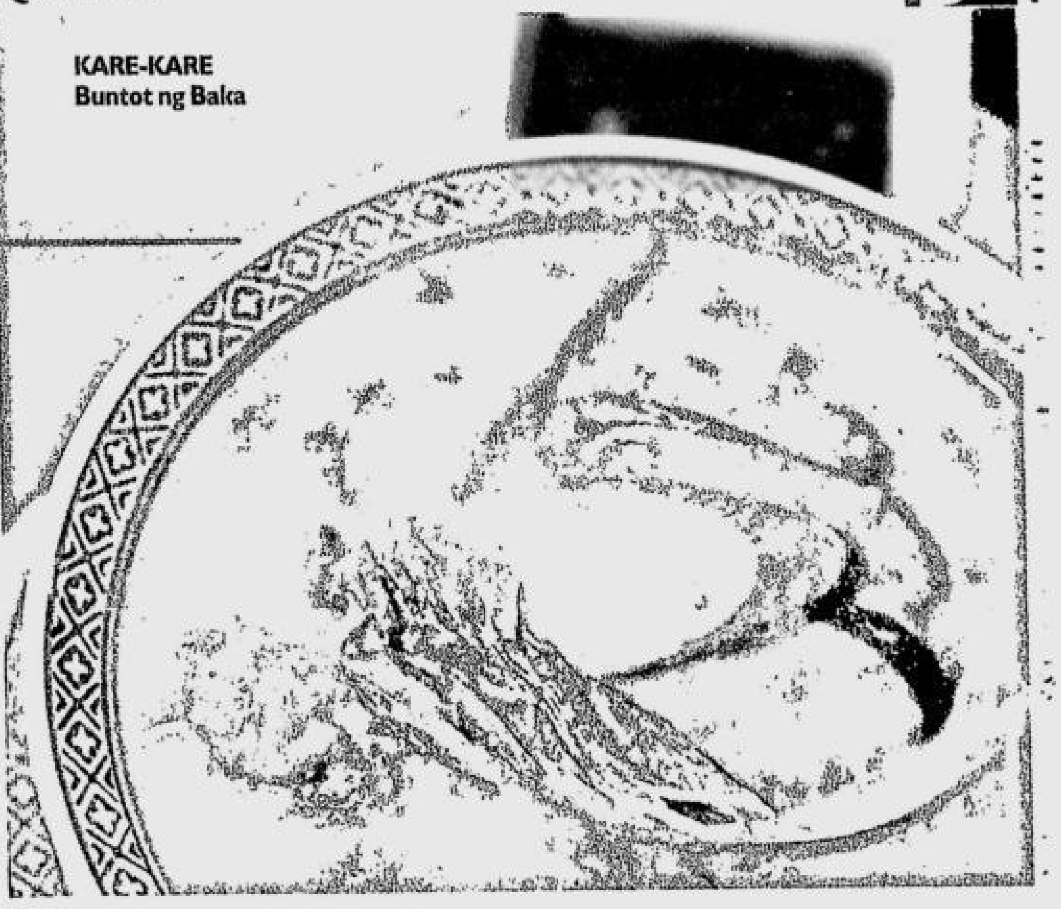
You don't have to travel all the way to Pampanga or wait for the annual fiesta to taste those mouthwatering home-cooked dishes again.

Mangan just opened at the new TriNoma Mall on North Avenue in QC. The restaurant offers irresistibly delicious *lutong bahay* Kapampangan food similar to the spread at fiestas.

Lengua, one of Mangan's hot favorites, is cooked in three different ways—Lengua with Mushroom (P210), Lengua Sisig (P160) and Lengua Caldereta (P165).

Bestsellers include Tortang Talong with Pork Giniling (P80), Garlic Pugo Inadobo (P125), Crispy Pata (P380) and Sisig ni Mely (a Kapsampangan specialty named after the grand old lady

SIMPLY/ D4



KARE-KARE
Buntot ng Baka

BPI Celebrating 156 Years of Banking Excellence

The BPI Network: Creating Customer Touch Points to Suit Your Lifestyle

Over the years, Bank of the Philippine Islands has been designing and redesigning its network to meet the changing times and the evolving lifestyles of its customers.

From brick-and-mortar to virtual, from person-to-person to electronic, from ATM to mobile banking, BPI offers its clients a vast array of customer touch points to make their banking as convenient as possible. Today, as BPI turns 156, it boasts of over 800 branches, more than 1,400 ATMs, 11,000 point-of-sale terminals and a 24/7 Call Center. And with its Express Phone, Express Online and Express Mobile, every landline, PC and cellphone is now part of the BPI network.

While its innovations in electronic banking may have been more noticeable, BPI has also made significant changes in its branch network – in location, in special services for unique target markets and in the facilities you'll find within the branch.

BPI pioneered the branch in the mall, which caters to individuals who are tied to the office on weekdays and who spend their weekends or after-office hours shopping. These mall-based outlets called BPI Express Banking Centers (EBC) allow shoppers to open an Express Teller account and get the ATM card in 20 minutes. The EBC also handles applications for BPI credit cards, auto and housing loans, and Express Cash.

Even BPI's regular branches, although seemingly uniform in its offerings, provide more than general banking services. Some of them are specially designed to handle corporate requirements while others will cater to individuals with sophisticated financial and investment needs. Still, others will provide expertise in handling the needs of overseas Filipinos and their families.

But there's more. Last year, BPI started rolling out branches called BPI Express, catering to individuals who want fast, friendly services for their simple routine transactions and basic banking needs. The branch offers you complete electronic banking channels – ATM, phone and online banking – and an Express Services Counselor to teach and assist you in completing your transactions using these channels. Tellers are also on hand, as well as Express Sales Counselors to answer your queries and offer financial advice.

For its innovative concept, the BPI Express branch won the Branch Transformation Project of the Year at the 2007 Banker Technology Awards. The award, given by the premier financial publication, The Banker, annually cites the best banking practices and innovations worldwide. BPI Express earned this citation besting other international banks.

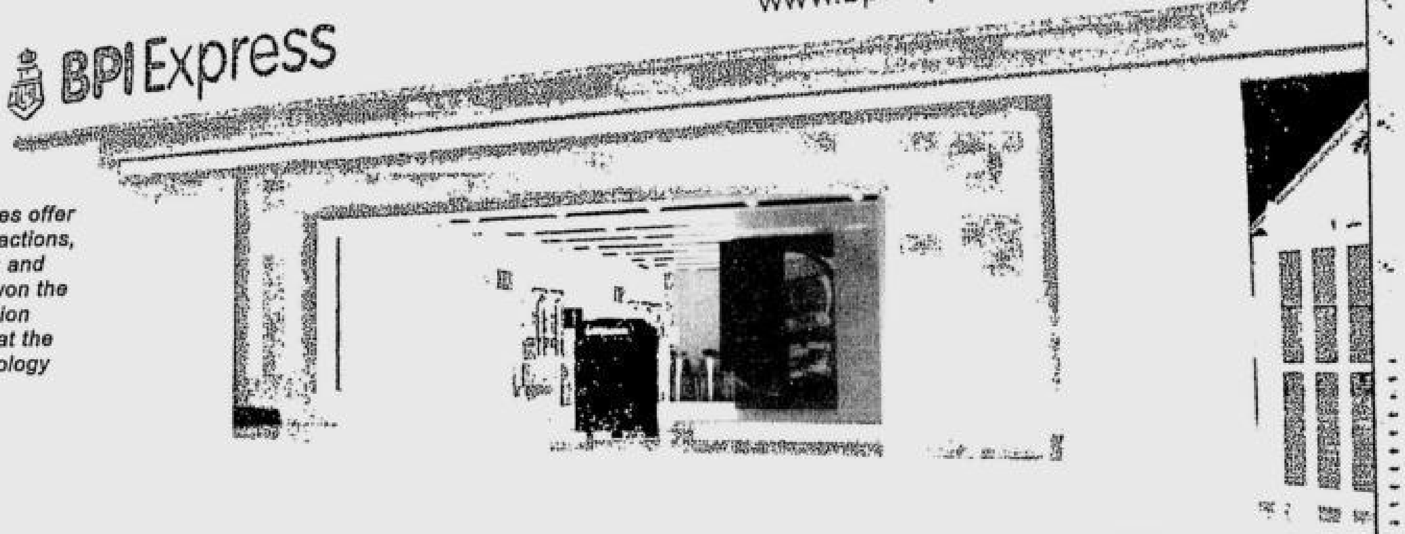
Truly, banking has gone a long way with BPI's innovations in bank customer touch points. You can expect nothing less from a bank that takes to heart its commitment to bring its customers farther.

BPI@156
We'll take you farther.

Another innovation from the Bank of the Philippine Islands

BPI EXPRESS: The Friendly Place to Bank

89-100
www.bpiexpressonline.com



BPI Express branches offer teller-assisted transactions, self-service banking and financial advice. It won the Branch Transformation Project of the Year at the 2007 Banker Technology Awards.

Time. Somehow there's never enough. As everyone knows, time is money, and minutes matter. So the last thing you want is to spend time on routine tasks like banking. Just *thinking* about the lines – from the payday ATM rush to the long wait for the teller – can be stressful.

Even more stressful is not knowing how to do your transactions using the phone or the computer at the bank - it makes you wish someone took the time to help you figure things out. And when you want to consult about getting a loan or financial advice, you feel like everyone's listening in on what you're saying - the bank just doesn't seem private enough to talk about such matters.

But fret no more, Bank of the Philippine Islands has come up with a friendly solution–its newest branch type called BPI Express, now in more locations nationwide.

When you enter a BPI Express branch, you are immediately greeted by its friendly, clean and modern interior design.

It's a bank that's adapted for today's hurried lifestyle.

From the moment you enter the stylish, not-so-bank-looking bank, you notice the difference. The sunny decor, relaxed yet fast-moving mood and even the helpful, friendly BPI Express Counselors make it feel more like a boutique than a bank.

The BPI Express consultation area is designed to help keep financial discussions with clients strictly private and confidential.

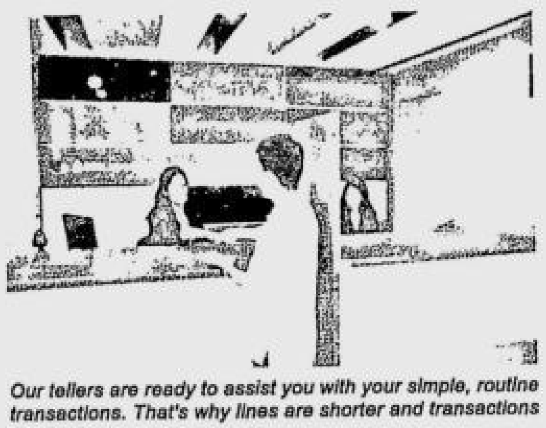
Basic transactions are quick and easy with the BPI Express Electronic Banking zone.

There you'll find BPI Express Teller ATMs, a phone for BPI Express Phone and a computer to access BPI Express Online. Plus, a BPI Express Services Counselor is there to help you every step of the way. Once you learn how to do it, you can do your banking from the comfort of your home or your office.

BPI Express has friendly tellers on hand for your other transactions.

BPI Express caters to simple routine transactions, so lines at the tellers are short. Think of the whole branch as a supermarket Express Lane - a fast lane designed to move you through quickly and more pleasantly.

But the "Express" isn't just about speed; it's also about expression. Just tell us what you need, and we'll help you find it – not standing at a counter, but in the privacy and comfort of a personal workstation. Here, BPI Express Sales Counselors can give you simple, practical advice on loans, investments, financial planning and other money matters.



Our tellers are ready to assist you with your simple, routine transactions. That's why lines are shorter and transactions are faster.

BPI Express offers private financial consultations.

So, if you want to have more control over your time and get friendly, fast service, come and visit the nearest BPI Express branch. You might just be surprised at how quick — and pleasant your banking experience could be.

BPI Express Services Counselors are on hand to teach you about phone and online banking.

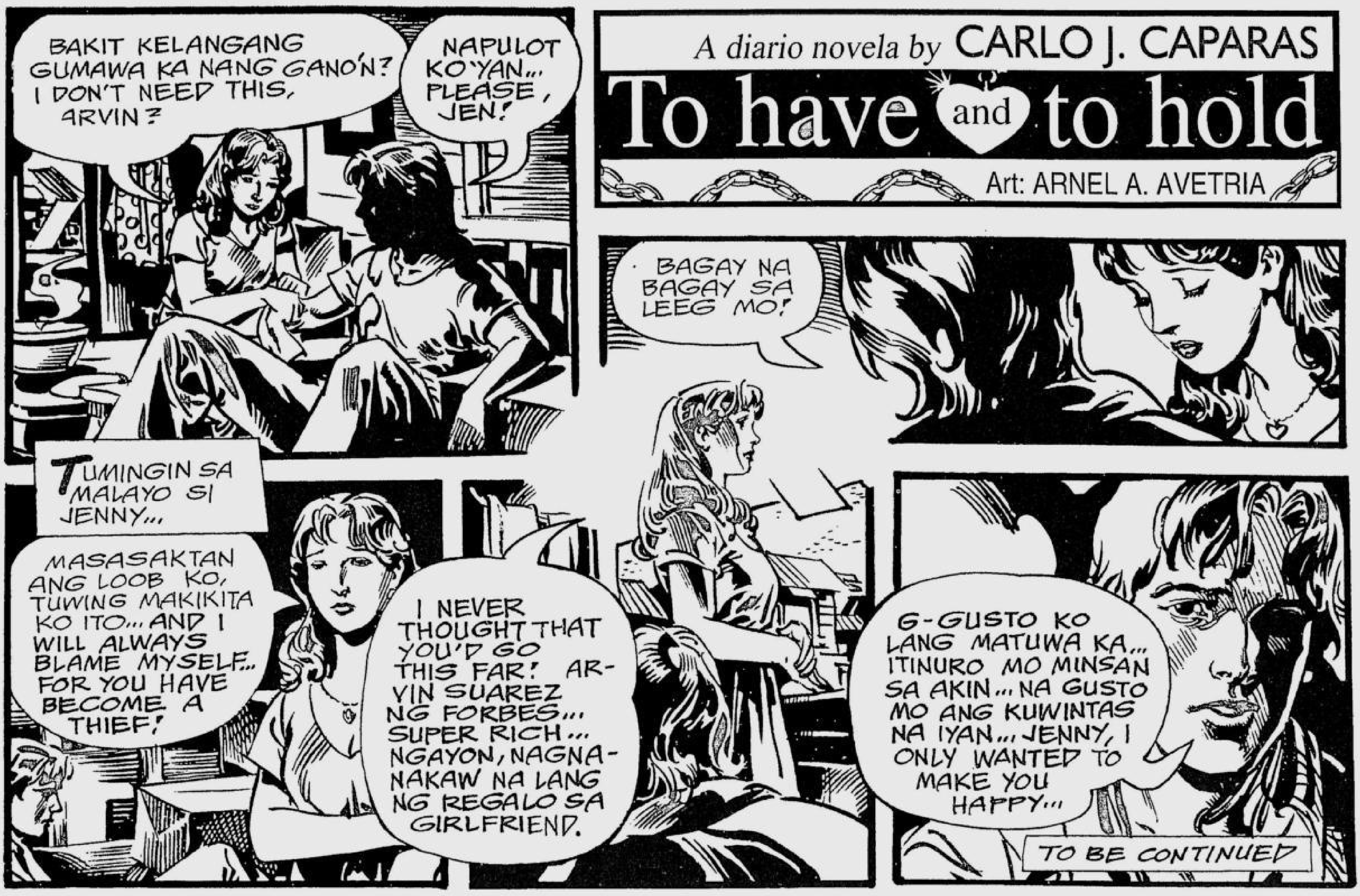
BPI Express branches: METRO MANILA: Almanza Uno - Las Piñas • Auto Mall - Frontera Drive, Ortigas • A. Bonifacio - Mauban • D. Macapagal Ave. - Aseana • España - Blumentritt • G. Araneta Avenue • Intrepid Plaza - Libis, QC • J.P. Rizal - San Miguel • Kamias • Laong Laan • Medical Plaza - Makati • Muñoz Market • President Ave. - Parañaque • Quezon Ave. - D. Tuazon • Shaw Blvd. - Acacia Lane. • Santol - Sta. Mesa • Sucat - Virra Mall • Talon - Las Piñas • Taytay - El Monteverde • Baliwag - Rizal St. • **VISMIN:** Davao - Bajada • Davao - MacArthur • Gaisano - Tabunok • SM Cebu • **SOON TO OPEN:** Alabang - Civic Place • Dau - McArthur Highway • Fort Bonifacio - Stop over • Fort Bonifacio - High St. • Malolos - Paseo del Congreso • Riverbanks • Trinoma

Member: Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum deposit insurance per depositor is P250,000.

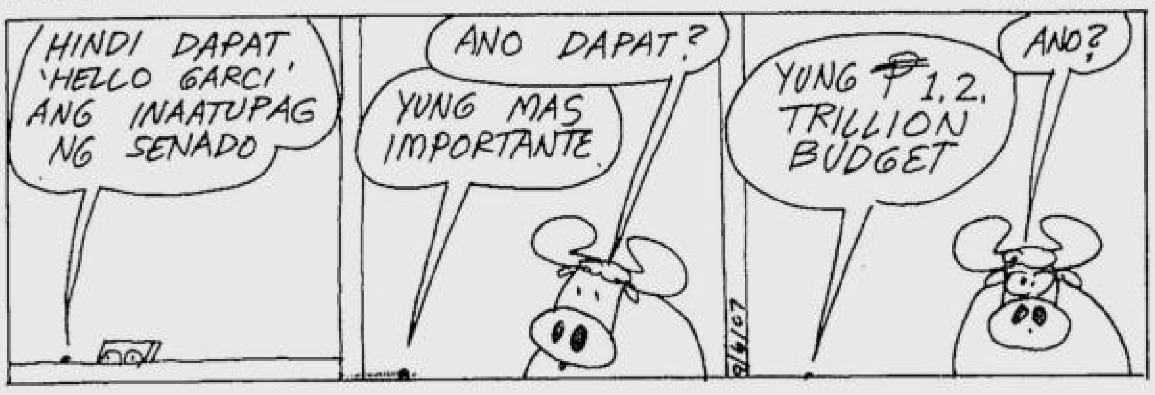
A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

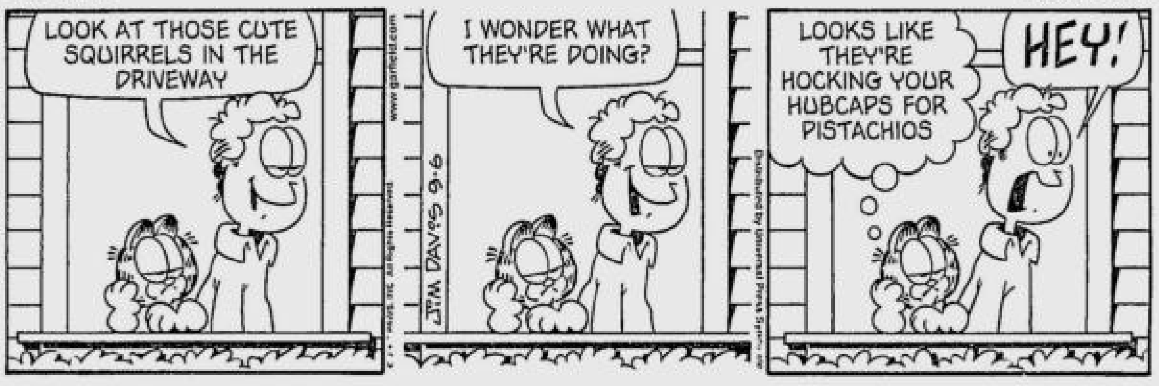
Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


BAKIT KELANGANG GUMAWA KA NANG GANO'N? I DON'T NEED THIS, ARVIN?
NAPULOT KO'YAN... PLEASE, JEN!
BAGAY NA BAGAY SA LEEG MO!
TUMINGIN SA MALAYO SI JENNY...
MASASAKTAN ANG LOOB KO, TUWING MAKIKITA KO ITO... AND I WILL ALWAYS BLAME MYSELF... FOR YOU HAVE BECOME A THIEF!
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT YOU'D GO THIS FAR! ARVIN SUAREZ NG FORBES... SUPER RICH... NGAYON, NAGNANAKAW NA LANG NG REGALO SA GIRLFRIEND.
G-GUSTO KO LANG MATUWA KA... ITINURO MO MINSAN SA AKIN... NA GUSTO MO ANG KUWINTAS NA IYAN... JENNY, I ONLY WANTED TO MAKE YOU HAPPY...
TO BE CONTINUED

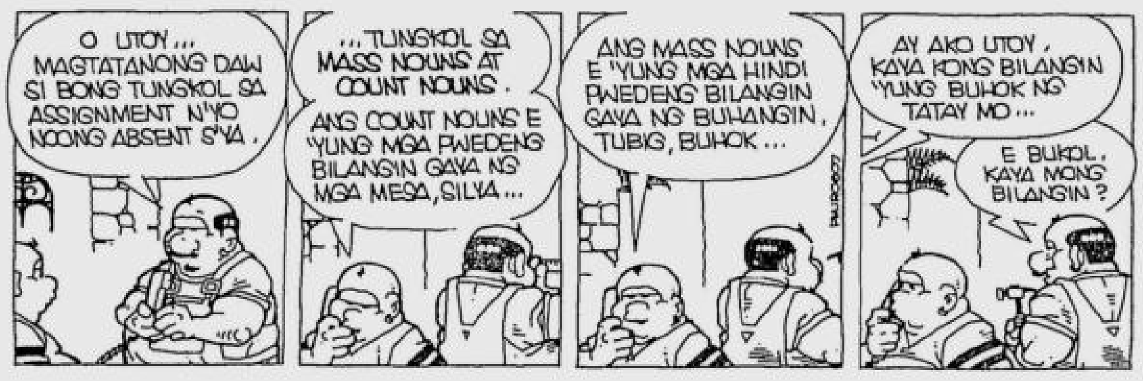
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HINDI DAPAT 'HELLO GARCI' ANG INAATUPAG NG SENADO
ANO DAPAT?
YUNG MAS IMPORTANTE
YUNG ₱1.2 TRILLION BUDGET
ANO?

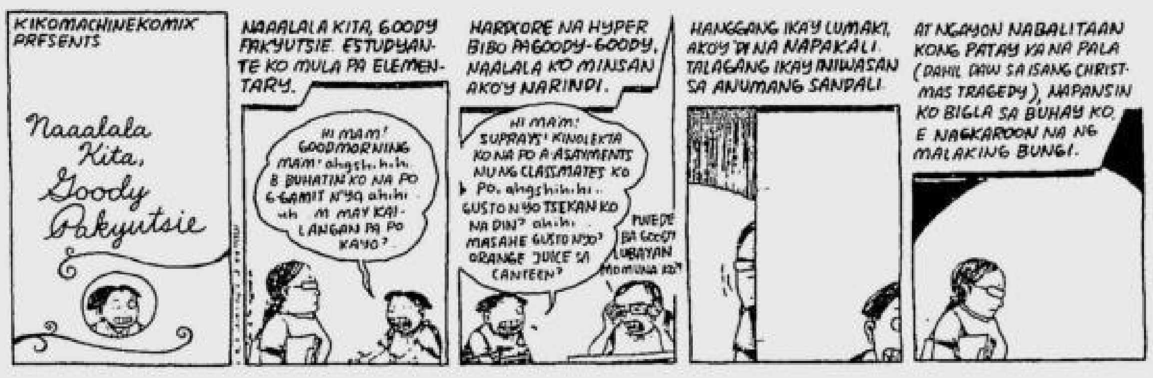
GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS


LOOK AT THOSE CUTE SQUIRRELS IN THE DRIVEWAY
I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE DOING?
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HOCKING YOUR HUBCAPS FOR PISTACHIOS
HEY!
JIM DAVIS 9-6

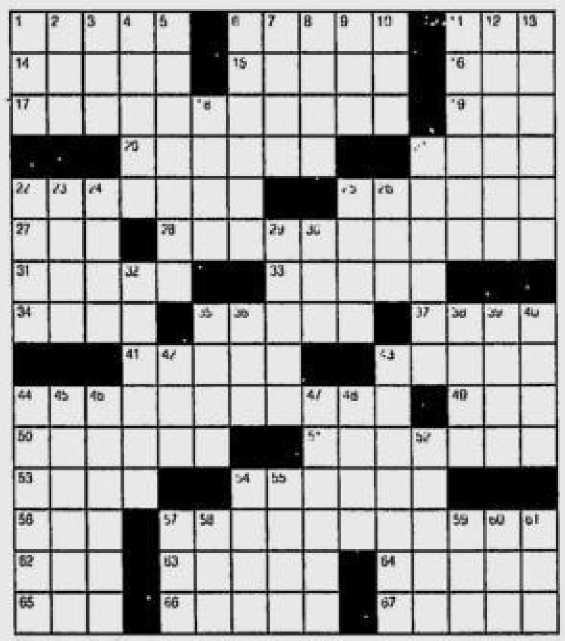
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


O UTOY... MAGTATANONG DAW SI BONG TUNGKOL SA ASSIGNMENT N'YO NOONG ABSENT S'YA.
...TUNGKOL SA MASS NOUNS AT COUNT NOUNS.
ANG COUNT NOUNS E 'YUNG MGA PWEDENG BILANGIN GAYA NG MGA MESA, SILYA...
ANG MASS NOUNS E 'YUNG MGA HINDI PWEDENG BILANGIN GAYA NG BUHANGIN, TUBIG, BUHOK...
AY AKO UTOY, KAYA KONG BILANGIN 'YUNG BUHOK NG TATAY MO...
E BUKOL, KAYA MONG BILANGIN?

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINEKOMIX PRESENTS
Naaalala Kita, Goody Pakyutsie
NAAALALA KITA, GOODY PAKYUTSIE. ESTUDYANTE KO MULA PA ELEMENTARY.
HI MAM! GOODMORNING MAM! ahgshihihi B BUHATIN KO NA PO GAMIT N'YO ahihi ih M MAY KAILANGAN PA PO KAYO?
HARDCORE NA HYPER BIBO PAGOODY-GOODY. NAALALA KO MINSAN AKO'Y NARINDI.
HI MAM! SUPRAYS! KINOLEKTA KO NA PO A ASAYMENTS NUNG CLASSMATES KO PO. ahgshihihi.. GUSTO N'YO TSEKAN KO NA DIN? ahihi MASAHE GUSTO N'YO? ORANGE JUICE SA CANTEEN?
PWEDE BA GOODY LUBAYAN MO MUNA KO?
HANGGANG IKAY LUMAKI, AKO'Y 'DI NA NAPAKALI. TALAGANG IKAY INIIWASAN SA ANUMANG SANDALI.
AT NGAYON NABALITAAN KONG PATAY KA NA PALA (DAHIL DAW SA ISANG CHRISTMAS TRAGEDY), NAPANSIN KO BIGLA SA BUHAY KO, E NAGKAROON NA NG MALAKING BUNGI.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
9/6/07

ACROSS
1 Lucky thing
6 Type of tiger or airplane
11 __ de mer
14 Indian bread
15 Slacken
16 United
17 Start of Evan Esar quip
19 Go bad
20 Picks up the tab
21 Singer Kristofferson
22 Moved lightly and nimbly
25 Emulating ewe
27 Corn unit
28 Part 2 of quip
31 Elite social category
33 Flings
34 Brooding location
35 Driver's reversal
37 Lat. list-ender
41 Impatient
43 Where the action is
44 Part 3 of quip
49 Goal
50 Drives back
51 Under-C diacritic mark
53 Columnists' pg.
54 De la Renta and de la Hoya
56 Bobbsey twin
57 End of quip
62 Corrida call
63 Attorneys-to-be, for a year
64 Is on a quest
65 Disencumber
66 Beckett no-show
67 Nearly vertical

DOWN
1 TV innards
2 Whadja say?
3 Simian
4 Break times
5 Mongoose relative
6 Thanksgiving Day spectacle
7 Aid a crook
8 Boone and Buchanan
9 DDE's command
10 Striped shirt
11 Chester or Desmond
12 Consecrate
13 Shall we be off?
18 Average grades
21 German emperor
22 Disengage from a habit
23 Senior golfer Irwin
24 Eye part
25 Swiss capital
26 City in GA
29 Butter maker
30 Karel Capek play
32 Moped
35 Cries of disgust
36 Golfer's gadget
38 Shade of blue
39 Blue dye
40 Tibetan monk
42 Leather punch
43 Salutation
44 Swedish money
45 Himalayan language
46 Bid one club
47 Confront boldly
48 No water or ice
52 Dot on a map
54 Ran up a tab
55 Allied victory site of 1944
57 Table tyrant
58 Lennon's beloved
59 Pinky or Peggy
60 Eisenhower
61 Recipe meas.

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

O	D	I	N	■	C	L	A	M	■	R	A	N	K	S
P	A	C	E	■	R	A	R	A	■	E	D	I	N	A
A	V	I	D	■	O	M	A	R	■	M	O	T	E	L
L	I	E	■	H	O	B	B	Y	H	O	R	S	E	S
S	T	R	A	I	N	■	■	S	A	T	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	S	T	E	A	L	■	N	E	S	T	L	E
R	E	D	H	E	R	R	I	N	G	S	■	R	O	E
I	S	A	Y	■	■	I	B	O	■	■	L	I	O	N
B	A	R	■	C	L	A	Y	P	I	G	E	O	N	S
S	U	N	D	A	E	■	A	E	R	O	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	O	N	E	L	■	■	O	D	E	S	S	A
R	O	U	N	D	R	O	B	I	N	S	■	T	A	L
A	U	R	A	L	■	W	A	D	I	■	S	A	B	E
T	R	I	T	E	■	E	R	L	E	■	O	V	E	R
A	S	S	E	S	■	R	A	E	S	■	N	E	R	O

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9/6/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You need variety and stimulation. You hate to be bored. With your attention to detail, you can thrive in research, the sciences or psychology. You need a lot of freedom in your life. You adapt quickly but function best when you have a goal. People find you friendly and outgoing. The year ahead favors all kinds of social activities. Enjoy!

Birthdate of: Michaelle Jean, Canada's Governor General; Justina Machado, actress; Greg Rusedski, tennis player.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Unexpected company might drop by at home today. On the other hand, expected company might be a no-show. Something at home will be different!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You'll meet new faces or run into old friends today. It's an interesting day because nothing goes quite as planned. You can count on your daily routine being interrupted!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Spontaneous purchases and impulse buying are very likely today. However, you might also dream up unexpected, new and novel ways of making money!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The Moon is in your sign today, and you feel frisky! You want something different to happen. You're ready for adventure and are bored with routine.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Hidden surprises might catch you off-guard today. These will occur especially if you're dealing with the government or large institutions. On the other hand, it could be a pleasant discovery

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): A friend will surprise you today. Alternatively, you might meet someone who is quite bizarre and different from you. (At least it won't be a boring day!)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs might do something unusual today. Your reaction likely will be one of rebellious independence. "Talk to the hand!" (You're feeling your oats.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Try to vary your routine today. Do something different. Go someplace you've never been before. You're hungry for adventure and new experiences. You're open to new ideas and fresh learning experiences.

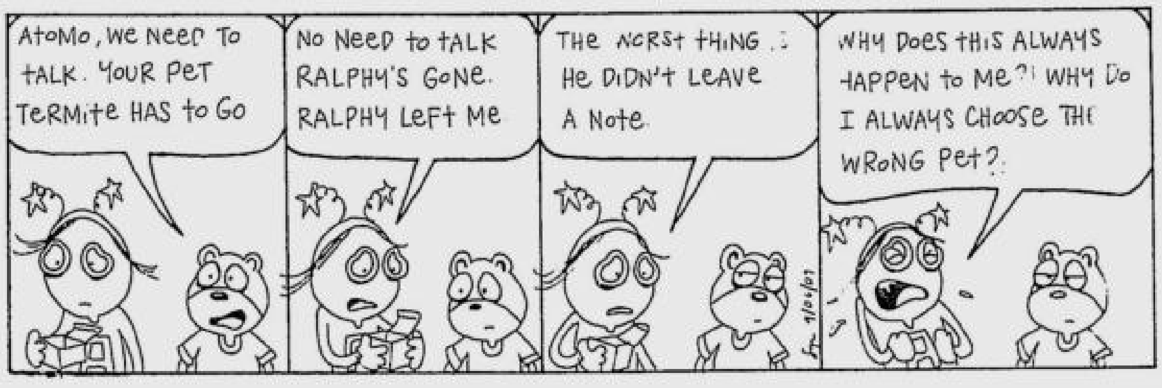
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Unexpected gifts and goodies might come your way today. Something surprising that concerns the wealth of others will likely take place. You might also hear surprising news about your partner's income.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You feel very independent today. You don't want other people telling you what to do. Fortunately, you don't feel particularly bossy either. Your attitude today is "live and let live."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Interruptions at work are likely today. Fire alarms, computer crashes, power outages or unexpected visitors are just some of the things that might change your daily routine.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You feel playful and prankish today. You're also quite flirtatious. The bottom line is simply this: You're looking for fun and pleasure! Playful activities with children will delight.

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AtoMo, We NeeD To tALK. YouR PeT TeRMite HAS to Go
No NeeD to tALK RALPHY'S GoNe. RALPHY LeFt Me
THe WoRSt tHiNG... He DiDN't LeAVe A Note.
WHY Does tHiS ALWAYS HAPPeN to Me?! WHY Do I ALWAYS CHoose THE WRoNG Pet?

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	5			3			7	
4			2	8	9			6
		5		2		7		
	2	6				4	1	
		8		6		9		
9			1	5	7			3
	6			4			8	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/06

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Answer to previous puzzle

9	6	2	4	3	8	5	1	7
1	8	4	5	2	7	3	6	9
5	7	3	6	9	1	2	8	4
8	5	1	7	6	4	9	2	3
4	3	9	1	8	2	6	7	5
7	2	6	3	5	9	8	4	1
6	9	7	2	1	3	4	5	8
3	4	5	8	7	6	1	9	2
2	1	8	9	4	5	7	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Fenix

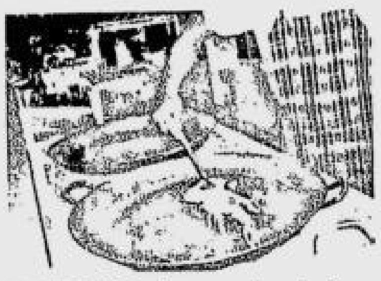
Tasting Cebu once again

UNLESS I GO TO A town or province to do research, the cuisine of the place unfolds very slowly. Sometimes it takes years.

Cebu cooking was introduced to me during my early working years by my boss in a broadcast company, Marilyn Bajarias. It was not in the island province but in her apartment in Quezon City.

She taught me how to eat *maya maya* (*katambak*, red snapper) head cooked as *tinowa*, which is how Cebuanos call their lightly soured *sinigang*.

She made me a *kinilaw* fanatic and every *tanguigue ceviche* thereafter had to measure up to her version. Her *guinamos* was sent by her mother from her hometown of Mandaue. I thought this fermented fish was more spectacular than the *bagoong alamang* and *bagoong isda* I was familiar with.


A SERVING of rompe kandado tinowa at Binugoy.

She also gave me my first taste of dried *danggit* and she laughed when I called the side without the bones "page one," my favorite side.

I went to Mandaue for her wedding. The day was like a fiesta because the whole town seemed to be there preparing and cooking. She managed to have some experts teach me how to weave the leaves to form *puso*, rice wrapped in coconut leaves. I failed miserably.

I remembered her when I went to Mandaue last week to have a *tinowa* experience. As soon as I saw the restaurant name, Binugoy, I laughed.

'Kinawboy' eating

Having learned Cebuano during a teaching stint in Cagayan de Oro and Binisaya from my husband's Leyte family, I knew *bugoy* meant a ne'er do well fellow. Even better, the sign said "*Kaon nga kinawboy.*" To be a "cowboy" in this country means you take things as they are, you are comfortable in any situation.

As long as the place is clean, I can be "*kinawboy.*" And I like eating places like Binugoy, unpretentious, serving home-style meals on plastic ware set on plastic tables and chairs.

FISH *sinugba* including the barracuda belly at Parr T' Ebelle

Several *tinowa* woks lined the *turo-turo* area. You could choose from clear to reddish-orange broth colored and soured by lots of tomatoes.

The fish was barracuda or what they called *rompe kandado*. There was also a big eel. I forgot to ask them how it was called there but I remember that it is called *palos* up here in the north. There was stingray also.

It was breakfast, by the way, during that visit and no one found it strange that we ate *kinilaw*. So we took two versions, one a *tanguigue* and the other sea cucumber, or *sunlutan*. There was also *lukot*, a spaghettini look-alike, greenish and wonderful. It made up for the fishy *lukot* we had during our last visit to the Talisay *lechon* place.

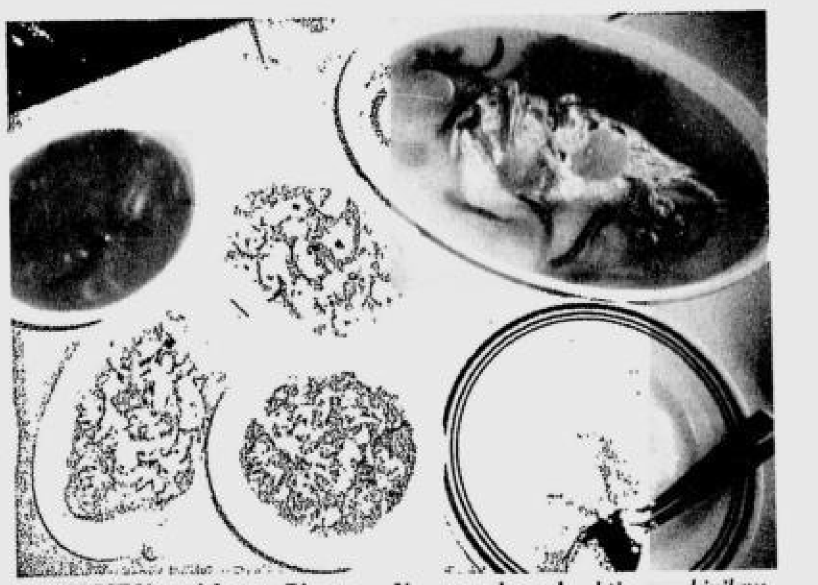
Lechon would not figure too much during this visit. We have had our fill so many times during former visits. Those included two Sundays at Talisay where *lechon* is sold by the kilo or on the peso amount the customer wants to pay.

At Stakili Resort, we were given *lechon* with chicken roasted in its belly. It was also there where we tasted pig's stomach called *tungol*, cleaned very well then stuffed with garlic, onions, tomatoes, leeks and scallions then fried.

Sutokil

If a general grouping of Cebu cooking were to be done, *sutokil* would be it. That is short for *sugba*, *tola* and *kilaw*-grilled, soured soup and vinegar-cured.

The *sugba* part are the many barbecue places in the city and outlying areas. My first experience was at the downtown Larsian, rows of stalls that barbecued anything—seafood, chicken and its spare parts, pork.


A HEARTY breakfast at Binugoy of barracuda and eel *tinowa*, *kinilaw* of sea cucumber, mackerel and *lukot* (seaweed).

The *sugba* part on this visit was at Parr'T Ebelle where we partook of the most delicious belly of the barracuda. It was the creamiest *sugba* I've ever had. We once more had *tinowa*, this time the head of *mamsa* (*talakitok*, jack).

One new thing learned on this visit was the dipping sauce Cebuanos favored with their *tinowa* and *sinugba*. It had sliced green tomatoes and Bombay onions and, mixed according to taste, vinegar, soy sauce and *calamansi* juice.

We were treated to a bit of heritage when Maricris Encarnacion, Cebu resident and friend, brought us to Argao, about two hours from the city. I remembered how my Cebuana boss also brought me there for some beach time and my first taste of sea urchin sold in bottles by fishermen.

I'm glad Argao has a heritage activist, Alex Gonzales, who works to preserve not only the *torta*, a kind of cake, but also the baroque church of St. Michael and its convent, the Casa Real and Puerta Real. I'm sure he is as frustrated as I am that the parish priest painted gold the saints at the main altar!

We ate at Alex Kaffe, owned by Alex, where we tasted *tanguigue kinilaw*, boiled white shrimps and the house version of *humba* or braised pork. We ordered *mungos* to find out what it was. It turned out to be *monggo guisado*.

On the way back, it was difficult to escape the call of pork so we stopped by Carcar. At the stall of Otik we bought *chicharon* or pork crackling by the gram.

We remembered that on a previous visit we passed by the town of Liloan where we also bought their version of *chicharon*.

Because every Cebu visit has given me a broader view of the cooking, I am excited about the next visit, whenever that will be.

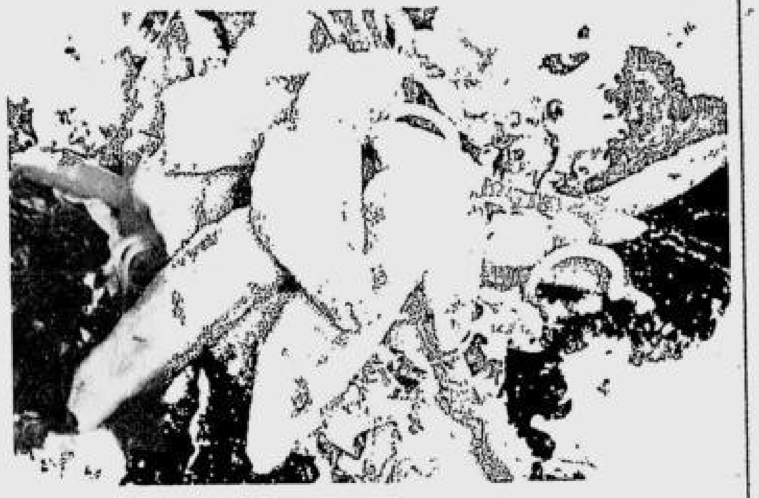
E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com

European nouvelle cuisine in Asian setting

TUCKED AWAY IN A TREE-lined section of San Juan, is Bulan.

With its intricately carved antique door and cathedral ceilings garlanded by elaborate latticework handcrafted by Filipino artisans, the three-level colonial house of solid stone seems to be a place for traditional cooking.

The restaurant, an exponent of nouvelle cuisine, serves European food in an Asian setting.


VEGGIE Salad

PHOTOS BY MANDY NAVASERO

A bar of antique hardwood has a counter inlayed with ebony and ivory patterns. At the center are birds and butterflies with wings of ebony and bone with eyes of amethyst, peridot and ruby.

Dining tables are fashioned from aged narra, mahogany and other hardwood. The centerpiece of a magnificent 12-seater was an ornate door from India.

A diner finds copper chaffing dishes; blown glass chandeliers; Balinese carvings; and jars, images and artifacts from China, Tibet and Nepal; as well as paintings of Filipino masters.

The seamless fusion of food and art is the work of siblings art dealer and publisher Marlene and master chef Tony Aguilar.

"We wanted to show the Philippines something new," says Marlene.

Tony, who bears a striking resemblance to eldest brother Freddie Aguilar, the singer, is a composer turned chef. He is home after 18 years as a master chef in Sweden.

The name Bulan, the siblings explain, is Ilocano for moon.

A great deal of thought went into the selection and pricing of items on the menu. Popular dishes include the Cleopatra (duck imported from France, oven-baked in Sauvignon sauce with a dash of saffron aioli); Roma (grilled orange-flavored filet mignon in marsala sauce, served with zucchini and tomatoes in olive oil); and Achilles (grilled lamb marinated in herbs and oranges, served with ratatouille, olives and feta cheese with an undertone of marsala wine sauce).

An array of soups, salads and appetizers is available for starters and homemade sorbets and *gelato* for dessert.

The owners usually recommend Max Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon of the Chilean label Vina Erazuriz to accompany the main dish. But wide selection of wines and spirits, as well as premium beers, is also available.

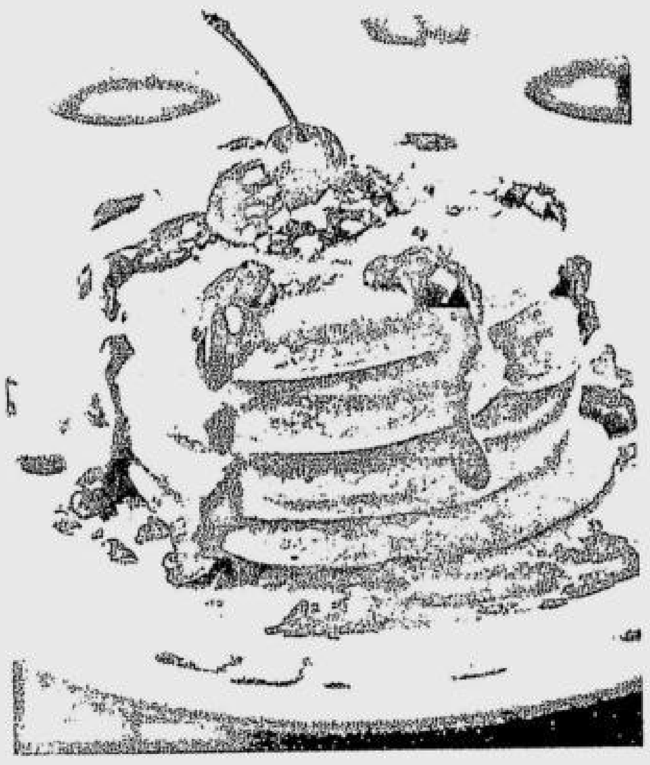
After the meal, guests are encouraged to view the displayed artwork. A curator is at hand to answer questions.

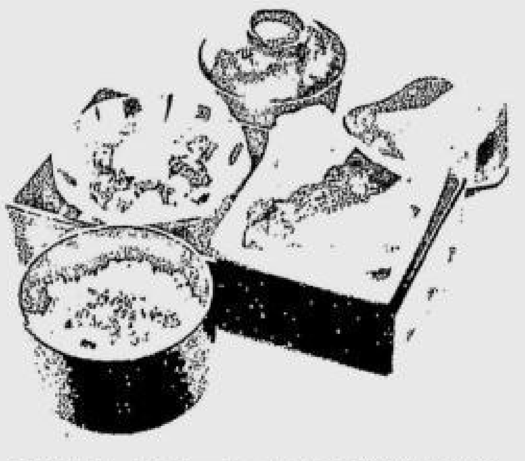
Bulan has also hosted private affairs like family dinners, business lunches, art exhibits, book launches and even romantic meetings. An exclusive mezzanine area is available for guests who require privacy.

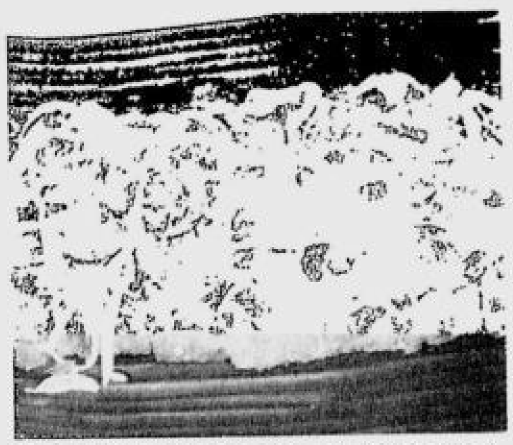
On Fridays, some of the country's most-respected artists and promising new talents hold sketching sessions at the third level function hall.

Bulan is at No. 3 General de Jesus cor. Jose Abad Santos Sts., Little Baguio, San Juan. It is open for lunch and dinner. Call 7258496.

SEAFOOD Pasta


PANCAKES WHEN YOU WANT THEM
Enjoy pancakes any time of the day at Heaven 'N Eggs, Eastwood City. The bright and colorful restaurant's all-day menu also includes steaks, pastas and Asian dishes. The Peanut Butter and Jelly Pancake Stock dessert is big enough for two. It has five layers of soft pancake, bathed in two kinds of peanut butter, freshly ground peanuts and a strawberry jam center. The Banana Foster Pancake has caramelized bananas, walnuts, rum and cinnamon, while the Dulce de Leche Pancake has sweet flan. Call 9121172 or text 0917-8EWCITY.


SAKAE Sushi offers bento meals that include miso soup, *gohan* and fresh fruits with your choice of grilled salmon, chicken teriyaki and beef *yakiniku*. There's the Sakae Deluxe Bento (freshly grilled *saba shioyaki*, *shoice* sushi and *agedashi* tofu). Sakae Sushi branches are at Crescent West Park, The Fort and SM Mall of Asia. Call 8434891.


CABALEN'S Fried Bangus with Mango Salad

DINING OUT

Buffet treat for grandparents

THIS GRANDPARENTS DAY, treat Lolo and Lola to Cabalen's exceptional buffet, with over 50 dishes to choose from at a very affordable eat-all-you-can price. Specialties include Sigang Bangus sa Bayabas, Ginisang Labong with Chicken, Cabalen Morcon, Adobong Camaru, Ensaladang Paku, Fried Bangus with Mango Salad and, for those with a sweet tooth, the Tibok-Tibok *kakanin*. Cabalen's Pick A Price Promo allows Lolos and Lolas to win exciting prizes like Pepsi Lite products, Cabalen gift certificates and Pinoy deli items. Cabalen Restaurants are at West Avenue, SM Megamall, Robinson's Place Manila, SM North Edsa, Robinson's Starmills Pampanga, SM Clark, Festival Supermall, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, TriNoma and Glorietta 3. Call 3723515 or 8939884 for reservations or 9135522 for catering services.

SUPER BOWL OF CHINA Festival Mall Alabang offers Super Chinese Fiesta Merienda, Pinoy *merienda* with a Chinese twist. Have the afternoon snack buffet for P129 per person. The promo features a noodle dish, soups, dim sum, congee and others with a single serving of iced tea or lemonade. It is available 2:30-5:30 p.m., Monday-Saturday. The Super Chinese Fiesta Merienda promo is available until Oct. 31 exclusively at Super Bowl of China Festival Mall Alabang.

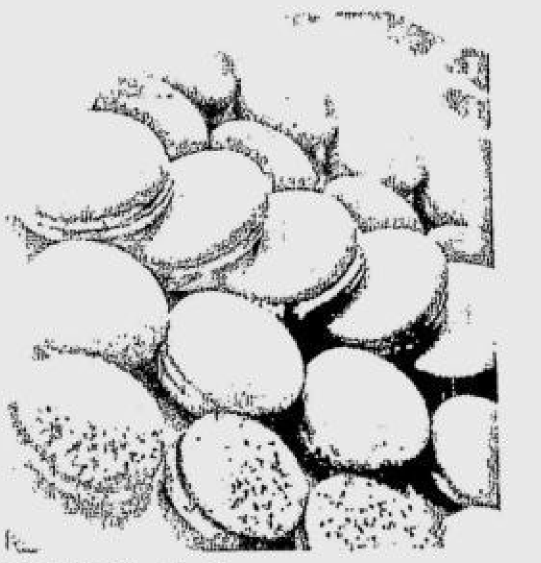
THE BELLEVUE HOTEL with the Department of Tourism Region 9 headed by director Ric San Juan present a taste of Zamboanga, Sept. 7-9. The hotel's Café d'Asie features guest chef from Zamboanga who will share her specialty dishes such as Curacha Crabs and Imbao Oysters for P795+. A special treat also awaits grandparents on Sept. 9. Call 7718181.

CASA ARMAS, the popular Spanish restaurant, is now offering authentic Jabugo ham. Jamón de Jabugo has a distinctive quality. It is produced in Jabugo, home of good natural produce and fine wines, in Huelva, a province of Andalusia, Spain. At Casa Armas, Jamon de Jabugo is served with bread on a *tabla* (wooden board). Priced at P975+, it is the newest addition to the restaurant's wide *tapas* selection and can be enjoyed year round. A serving can be shared by two to three people. Call 6873663, The Podium; 8973542, Jupiter Street, Makati; or 7574996, Greenbelt branch.

ALBA RESTAURANT has added new dishes to its 55 *tapas calientes* and *tapas frias*. Recently added to the menu are the meaty Carllada de Vaca *al vino rojo and the seafood special Mejillones al Tigre. New cold tapas* are Tortilla Catalana, Tostadas, Tomate and Mahi Mahi Fresco. Alba Restaurant is also introducing *Pa amb tomaquet*. Spanish tomato bread, among others. Call 8966950-51; 8904399; 9251912, 9287129. 4117052; 6312216-17.

Will deliver desserts

GATEAU Chocolate Lollipop, Petit Mont Blanc and Passion Fruit and Banana Sherbet



MACARON collection

CRÈME Brulée infused with Japanese green tea, chocolate ice cream with warm chocolate fudge drizzle and Tiramisu

LET US REPHRASE THAT WITH "all desserts," which was what Diamond Hotel offered recently when it sold tickets to three seatings of Dessert Couture: The Ultimate Cake & Dessert Gallery at The Loft of Manansala in Rockwell Center.

The sweetest sit-down dining ever held so far this year launched Diamond's entry into dessert catering service.

Starting Sept. 15, the Diamond Hotel Dessert Station will be available for setting up in your home or any party venue for buffet or a la carte selections of sweet treats (minimum order of P1,200, please).

Just call 5283000 and the hotel catering staff will show up at your door with a dessert service that stars the latest concoctions of award-winning pastry chef Pang Kok Keong.

Cecile Ang, the hotel's young and restless president, has tapped the equally young Singaporean dessert wizard to update Diamond's dessert selections.

Dessert Couture proved the perfect opportunity for introducing his concoctions and confections to Filipinos.

The full-course dessert dining, which benefited Pathways for Higher Education, presented a collection of cakes, pastries and other temptations that were as visually stunning as they were rich in flavor.

Guests could not help but gush over each course which was complemented with champagne and relaxing music.

They started with Green Lime Éclair, Walnut Cheesecake and Baked Pear Tart: They were followed by Gateau Chocolate Lollipops, Petit Mont Blanc and Passion Fruit and Banana Sherbet.

The third course featured Le Royale, a dark chocolate mousse with almond meringue and hazelnut crisps, followed by Valrhona Dark Chocolate Lollipop and Praline Profiterolle.

Classic chocolate ice cream came up next, this time made more exquisite by warm chocolate fudge drizzle and almond crumble. Also served were Crème Brulée infused with Japanese green tea and Tiramisu.

Diamond's signature macaron collection featuring Rose, Salty Caramel, Pistachio, Hazelnut, Praline, Lemon and Chocolate flavors, capped the very exclusive afternoon tea.

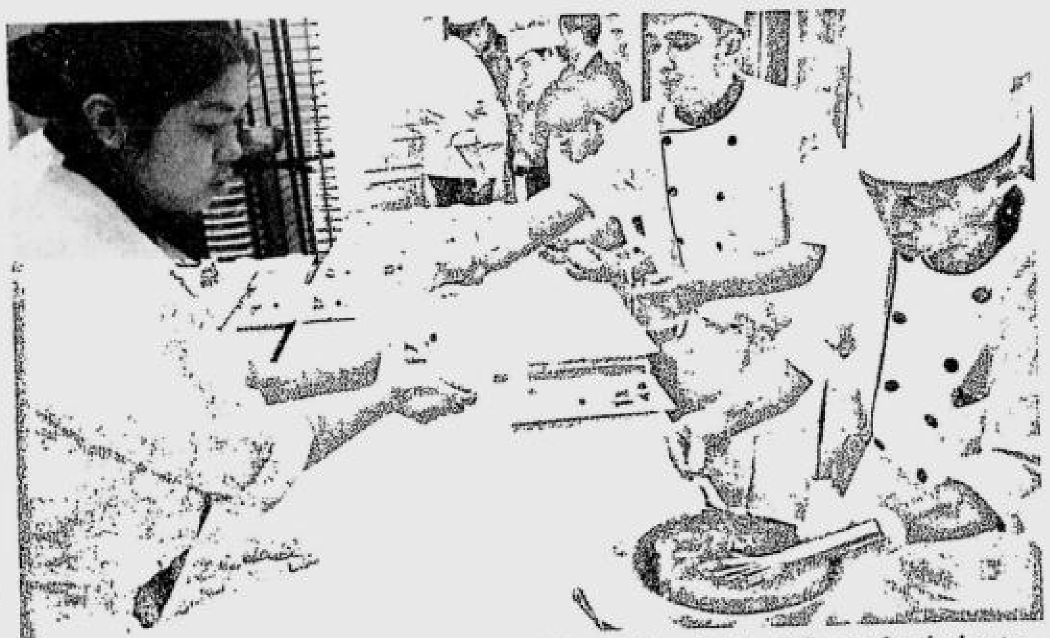
Diamond Hotel is at Roxas Boulevard cor. Dr. J. Quintos Street, Manila (tel. 5283000; www.diamondhotel.com).

MONT Blanc

TIRAMISU

CHUCK that carton of easy-bake cheesecake, pick up the phone and sit pretty. Starting Sept. 15, Diamond Hotel will deliver desserts to your door.

SINGAPOREAN pastry chef Pang Kok Keong introduces his concoctions



DIAMOND transported its dessert crew to the Manansala at Rockwell Center for the haute-couture dessert event.

Simply delicious homecooking

From page D1

who popularized it in San Fernando, Pampanga).

For bed-weather days, try soup dishes "Mapaling Sabo," Sinigang na Babi (P190), Sinigang na Ulo ng Salmon sa Miso (P170), Sinigang na Sugpo sa Camias (P265) together with Mangan's house specialties.

Pritong Paborito is a delightful concoction of Pritong Manok, Lumpiang Bangus, Lechon Kawali, Garlic Pugo, Pritong Tilapia, Pritong Biya and a variety of *sawsawan* (sauces).

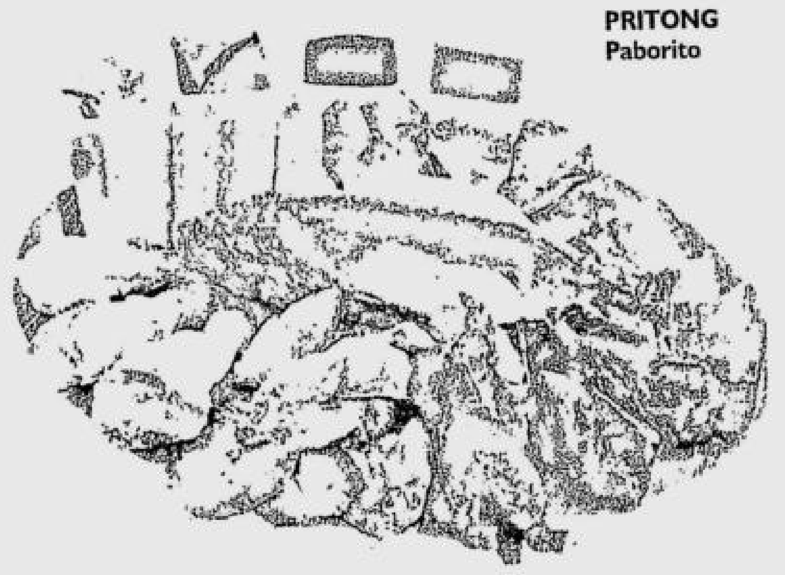
Inihaw Pyesta, Mangan's bestseller, is sure to satisfy with its Inihaw na Liempo, Chicken BBQ, Alabos na Hipon, Inihaw na Bangus, Inihaw na Talong with Burong Hipon (a must to all Kapampangan steamed vegetables), Inihaw na Tahong, Dahon ng Mustasa (Mustasa leaves), and their complement *sawsawan*.

After a satisfying meal, what better way to slow down but by ordering Napapanahong Prutas—a variety of fruits in season served on a platter.

Mangan's source of pride is the culinary expertise of its chef. With Maritel Nievera-Shani at the helm, food lovers are assured that only the best Kapampangan dishes are served in all branches.

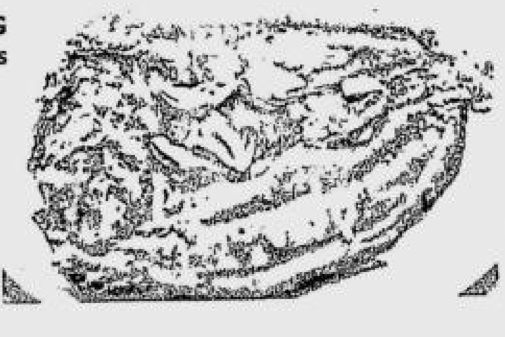
Mangan will open a branch soon at SM Mall of Asia. Call Mangan Robinsons Place Manila (4004784, 4006293), Glorietta 1 (8123843, 8939798), Robinsons Galleria (6361120, 6874459), SM City North Edsa (9286308, 9286659), SM City Pampanga (045-9639294 to 95) and TriNoma (9167790, 9166395).

BIBINGKA with salted egg and *quesong puti*



PRITONG Paborito

SEAFOOD Pancit Luglug

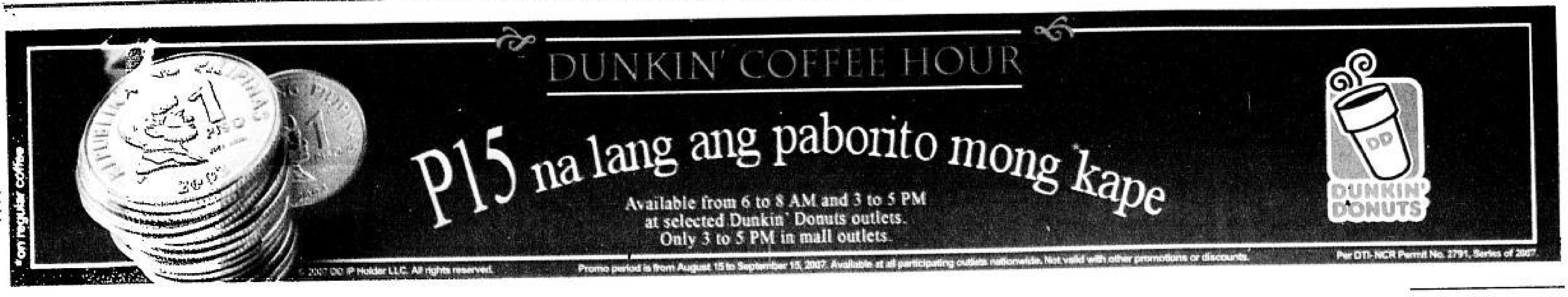


DAING na Bangus

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** entertainment@inquirer.com.ph **Website:** www.inquirer.net/entertainment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*on regular coffee

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Promo period is from August 15 to September 15, 2007. Available at all participating outlets nationwide. Not valid with other promotions or discounts.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2791, Series of 2007.

Up Dharma, up!

THE BUZZ ON UP DHARMA DOWN as one of the most interesting bands in the city has caught global attention.

A recent story on the Time Magazine-CNN website, titled "The Way of Dharma," noted that the group—vocalist and keyboard player Armi Millare, 23; guitarist Carlos Tañada, 25; bassist Paul Yap, 25; and drummer Ean Mayor, 23—stands out from among local bands and deserves to be heard around the world.

The story read in part: "Head out most nights in Metro Manila, and you'll be spoiled for original live sound, be it R&B, indie pop, electro-fusion or punk. In a scene this vibrant, it's hard for any act to rise above the clamor. But Up Dharma Down might just be doing so. Beloved of air-punching fans and chin-stroking critics alike, this genre-defying quartet was pegged by BBC radio DJ Mark Coles last year as the Manila band most likely to cross over to the lucrative Anglophone market of North America. Its internationally viable sound shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone who knows the environment it sprang from."

Millare and the band's manager/record label boss, Toti Dalmacion, sounded nonchalant when asked how UDD developed its music.

"The Philippines is used to following global music trends," Dalmacion said. "RP bands sprout out of all [kinds of] genres."

Millare explained: "We can balance and combine various influences. We'd get bored if we got stuck within a certain style."

UP DHARMA DOWN: "Genre-defying."

ROMY HOMILLADA

No diva in her blog site

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

CHECKING OUT MY FRIENDS' multiply.com sites is the highlight of my mornings. Before getting lost in the daily shuffle (or shuffling with the lost?), it feels good to touch base with friends and see what they're up to.

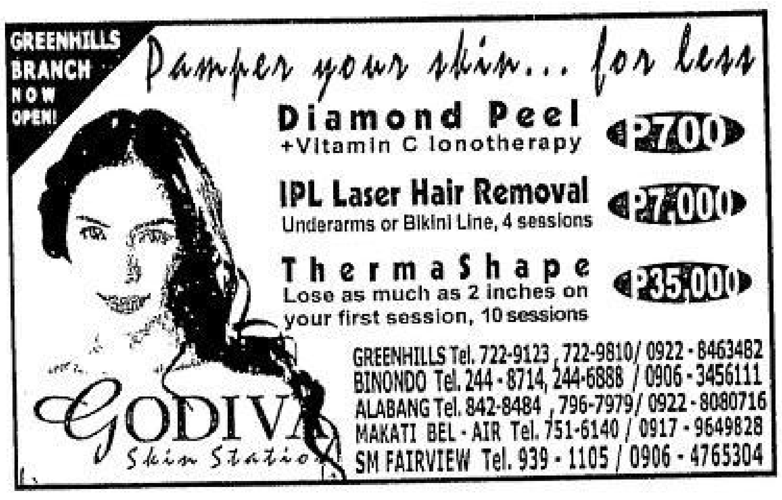
I particularly enjoy going through the site of Zsazsa Padilla, which she calls "In This Corner." There she sheds her diva image and even gamely posts her *bagong gising* pix. Zsa allowed me to share with you her latest blog entry (Sept. 3): "Give in, hold back." I'm sure a lot of women can relate to it as they also deal with the diet tug of war.

Confused

"I am confused. My brain, mouth and stomach are in connivance. They're out to get me. My brain is the only one making sense but I get mixed signals. It keeps saying, 'Give in... eat! You are PMSing and you have to satisfy your needs.'

"When I look in the mirror and see my image and how my hips have grown, it then says, 'Hold back... have some sense,

NO DIVA/ E2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FEEDBACK

Gossip shows offend

From: Pepe Sanchez (jos_357@yahoo.com), address withheld upon request:

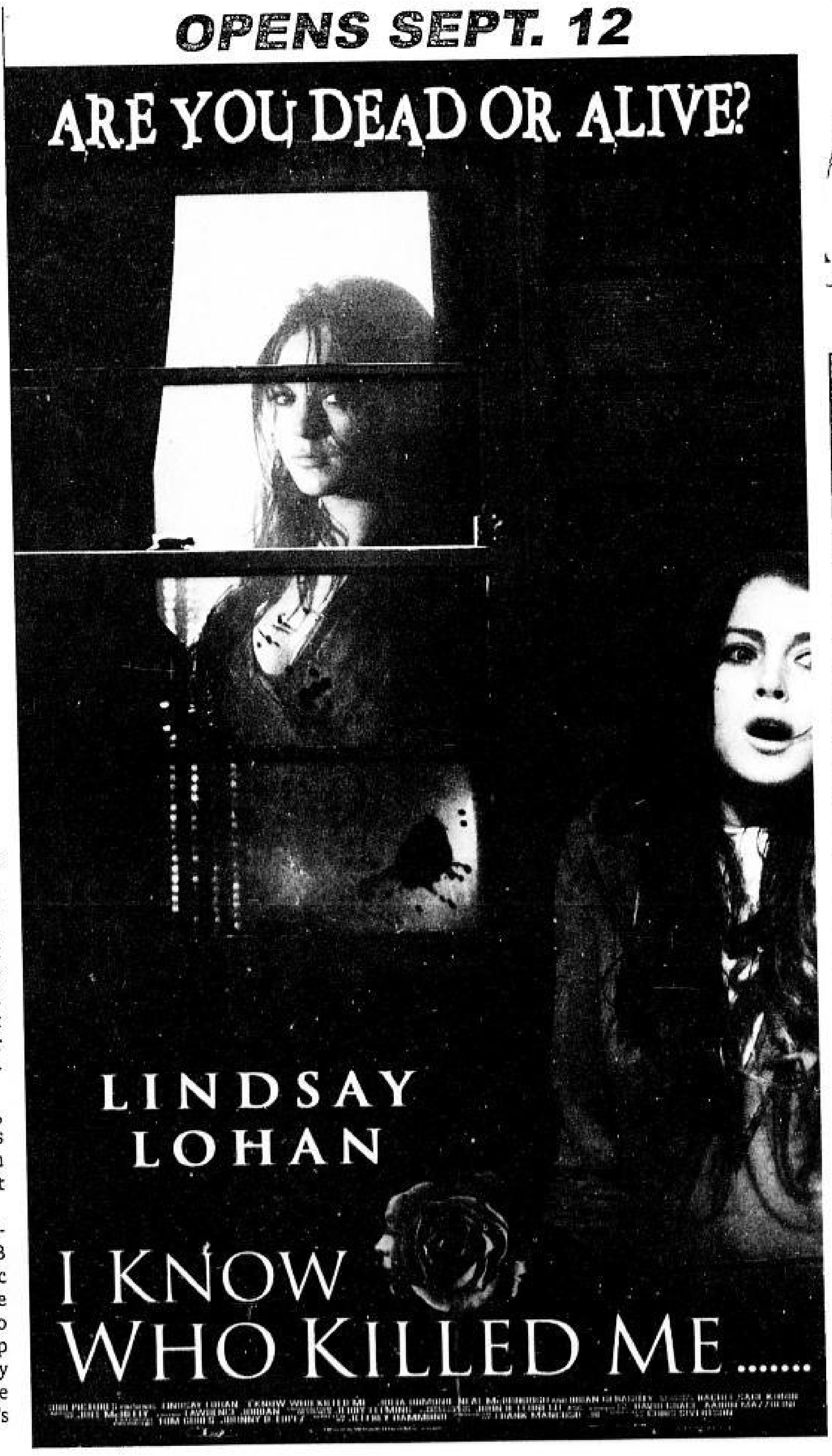
May we request the two big TV stations, ABS-CBN and GMA 7, to please move their gossip shows to time slots that don't disturb people taking siesta during the weekends?

How about 10 a.m. or 5 p.m.?

Granted, these shows are big business, and their high ratings probably justify the blatant desecration of God's day for the sole purpose of feeing audiences with all that show biz trash. Please, can you just move these sinful programs so that people like us who need the weekend to recharge can get respite from our neighbors' offensively loud TV sets?

And since when, may we ask, has gossiping been stricken off the list of sins?

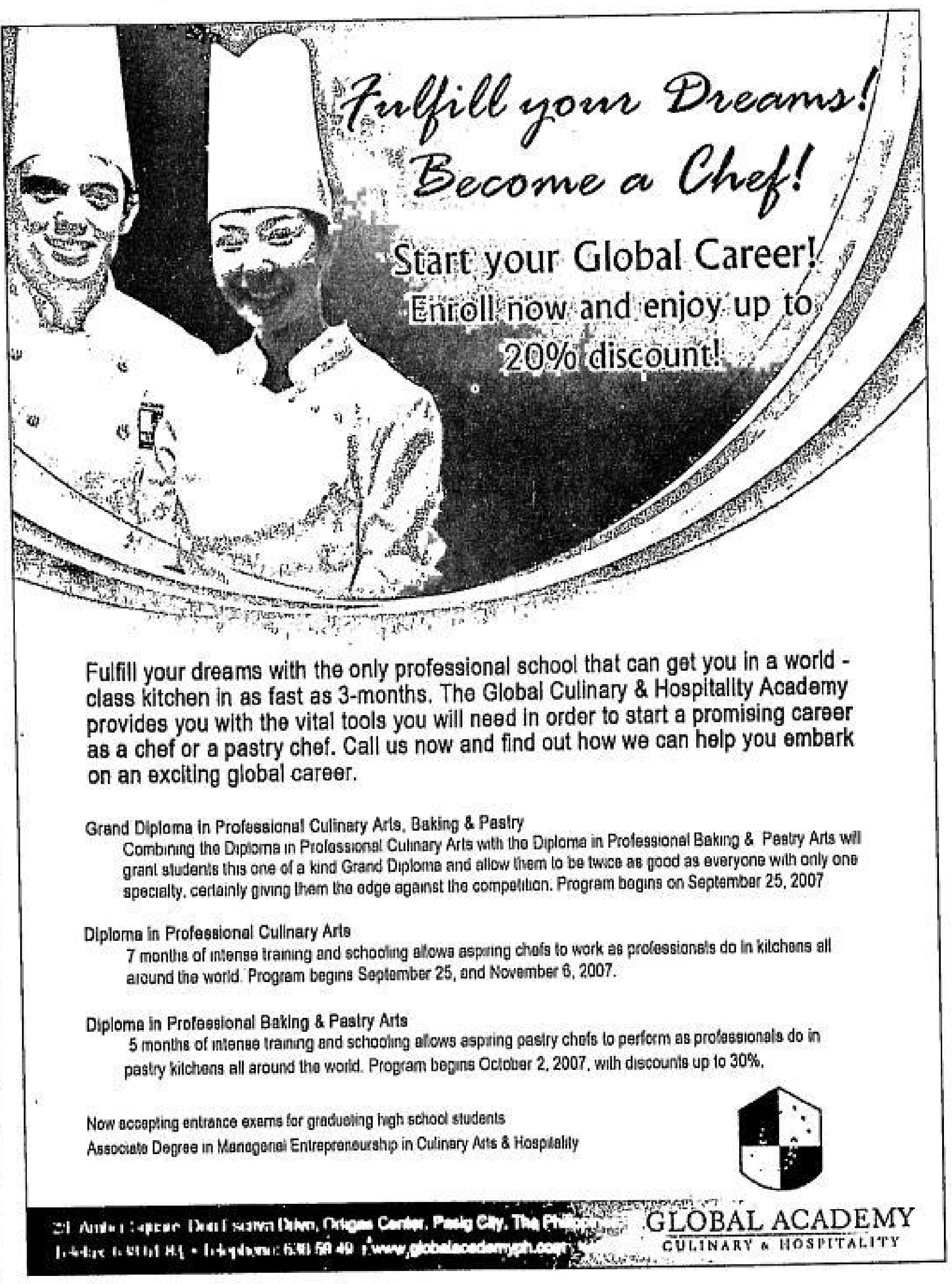
May we also request the MTRCB and the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines to please, please, step into this runaway frenzy and save the populace before it's too late?


OPENS SEPT. 12

ARE YOU DEAD OR ALIVE?

LINDSAY LOHAN

I KNOW WHO KILLED ME......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No diva in her blog site

From page E1

woman, and go on a diet... you ***!' It can get pretty abusive and downright mean. Seriously now, I have a photo shoot in two weeks and I have to be professional about this whole thing. Brain says... diet wins!

"So, in the next two weeks, I can envision a slimmer but nastier me. Being deprived of food is no fun. But we do it because it's part of the job. So many haters out there. And sadly enough, they always target the physical. They make nasty comments like she's too fat, too thin, too ugly, trying too hard... it just goes on and on.

"The upside? Good uplifting comments. I guess you all know by now that most artists suffer from low-self esteem. The culprit? Being a people-pleaser. Applause and approval from fans sustain us. Need I say more?"

Merry Marian

I teased Marian Rivera: "Now that you've made it big as Marimar, I'm sure Mark Herras regrets letting you slip away?"

Their romance got thwarted because Marian found out that Mark was still in love with Jennylyn Mercado at that time. She flipped her hair and pouted. "*Ewan ko kay* Mark (laughter)!"

I could sense some sarcasm in her tone. But all that is behind her now. If Mark has any plans of trying to win Marian back, he'd have to queue up and wait for her cue.

MA

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

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3 (DOLBY)	NANCY DREW
4 (DOLBY)	DAY WATCH

PREMIERE

(DOLBY)	EVAN ALMIGHTY HAIRSPRAY

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1	THE INVASION
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4	SKINWALKERS

starmall EDSA-SHAW

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4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOURNE ULTIMATUM
5	RESERVED

metropolis star cinema

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3	DAY WATCH
4	SKINWALKERS

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3 (DTS)	DAY WATCH
4 GOLD (DTS)	THE INVASION
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	NANCY DREW
6 GOLD (SDDS)	EVAN ALMIGHTY
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	DISTURBIA
8 (SDDS)	MY KUYAS WEDDING
9 (PDE)	A LOVE STORY
10 (DOLBY)	CHOPSUEY

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3 (DOLBY)	NANCY DREW
4 (DOLBY)	PLEASE CALL

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1	RUSH HOUR - 3
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3	A LOVE STORY
4	DIN'T LOOK BACK

Masagana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	SKINWALKERS
2	DISTURBIA
3	MY KUYAS WEDDING

Center Mall Cinema

Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)-(4449346)

1	RUSH HOUR - 3
2	PLANET TERROR

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RISE
2	MY KUYAS WEDDING
3 (DTS)	SINKING JAPAN
4	THREE

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	RUSH HOUR - 3
2	MY KUYAS WEDDING

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	DAY WATCH
2 (DOLBY)	DISTURBIA
3 (DOLBY)	NANCY DREW
4 (DOLBY)	1408 / THE INVATION

CINEMA 2000

Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	MY KUYAS WEDDING
2 (DTS)	1408
3 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR - 3
4	

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1	RESERVED
2 (DOLBY)	RESERVED
3 (DTS)	RESERVED
4	RESERVED

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(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	EVAN ALMIGHTY
2	MY KUYAS WEDDING
3 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR - 3

Cinema 2000 Metrotown

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1	RUSH HOUR - 3
2	A LOVE STORY
3 (DOLBY)	EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 (DTS)	LICENSE TO WED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	1408
2	RUSH HOUR - 3
3 (DOLBY)	MY KUYAS WEDDING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1	MY KUYAS WEDDING
2	RUSH HOUR - 3

Lianas Cinema

(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1	RUSH HOUR - 3
2	A LOVE STORY

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	SINKING JAPAN
2	MASARAP NA PUGAD
3	SARIWA
4 (DTS)	RUSH HOUR - 3

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	SINKING JAPAN
2	TAGINIT
3 (DTS)	1408
4	KAPAG DUMIKIT KUMAKAPIT
5	RUSH HOUR - 3

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

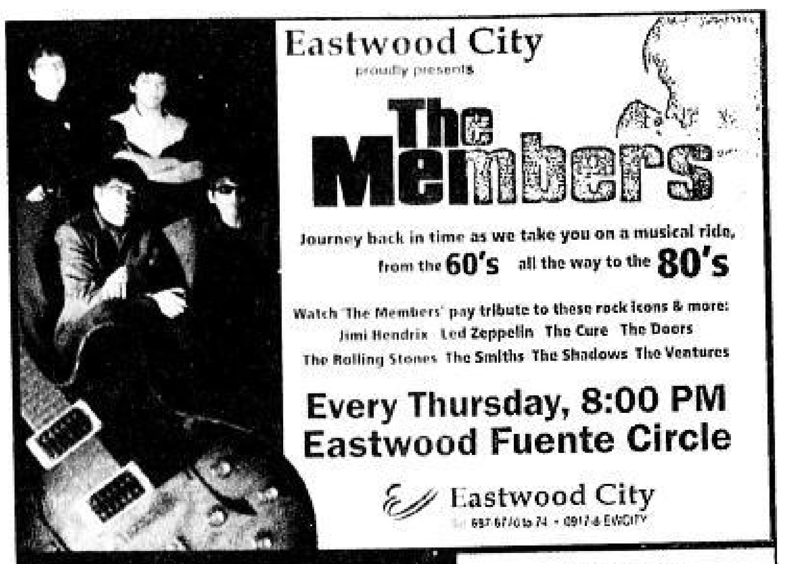
1	EVAN ALMIGHTY
2	A LOVE STORY
3	RISE BLOOD HUNTER
4	RUSH HOUR - 3

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	PLEASE CALL
2	PLEASE CALL

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



Eastwood City proudly presents

The Members

Journey back in time as we take you on a musical ride, from the 60's all the way to the 80's

Watch 'The Members' pay tribute to these rock icons & more:
Jimi Hendrix Led Zeppelin The Cure The Doors
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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

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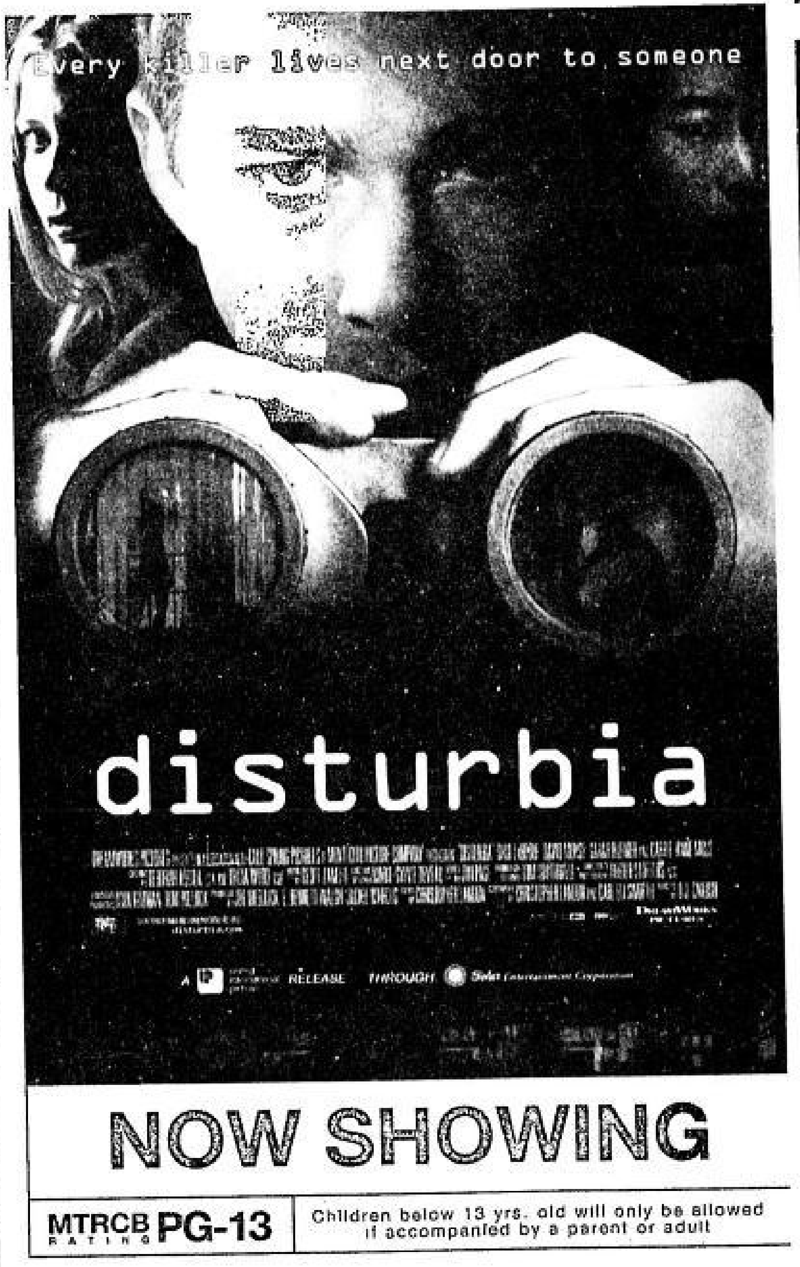
To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule just text eastwood and send to 2948 for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers

For inquiries, call
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	DAY WATCH 12:00, 2:30, 5:25, 8:20, 11:10 R-18	
2	DISTURBIA 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13	
3	NANCY DREW 1:00, 3:20, 5:50, 8:20, 10:50 G	
4	INVASION 3:20, 8:10 PG-13	1408 1:00, 5:45, 10:40 PG-13



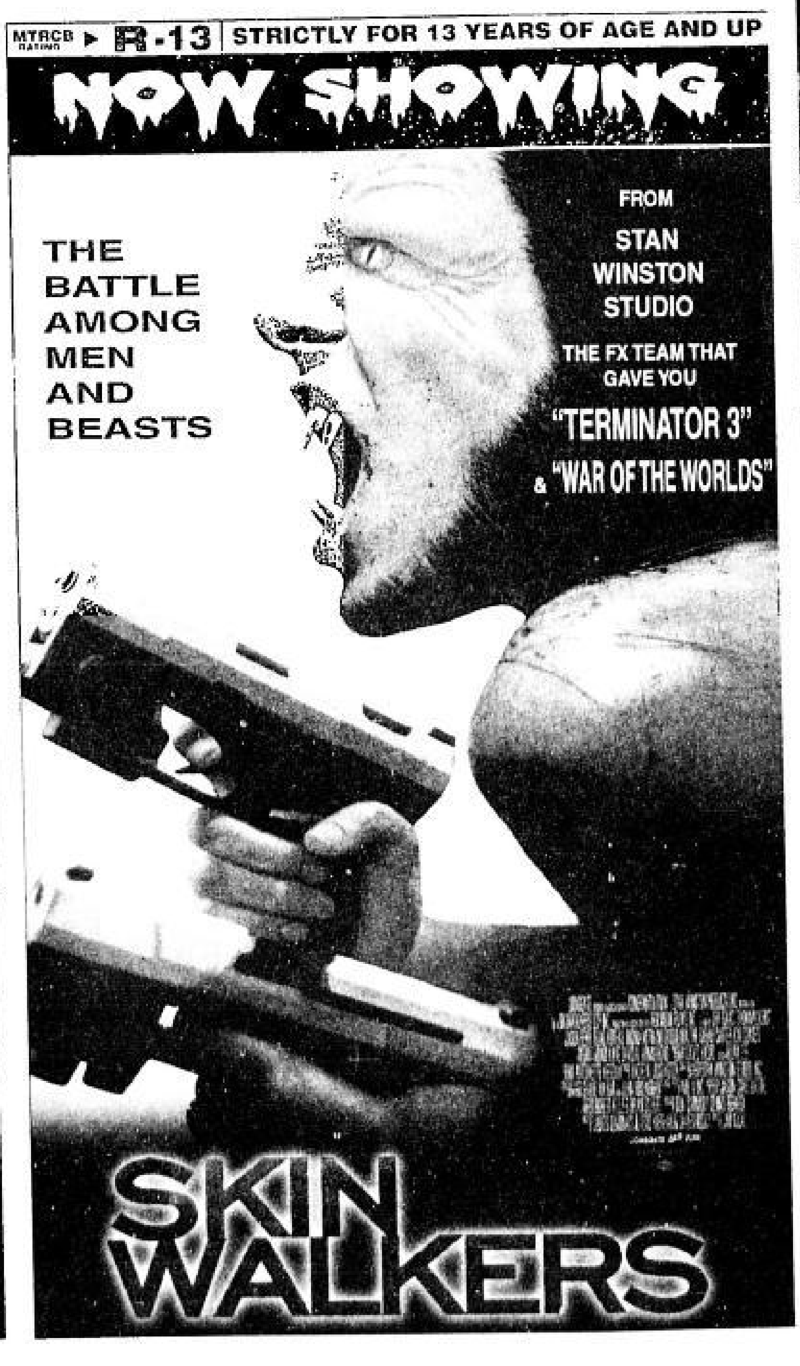
Every killer lives next door to someone

disturbia

A United International Pictures RELEASE THROUGH Solar Entertainment Corporation

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



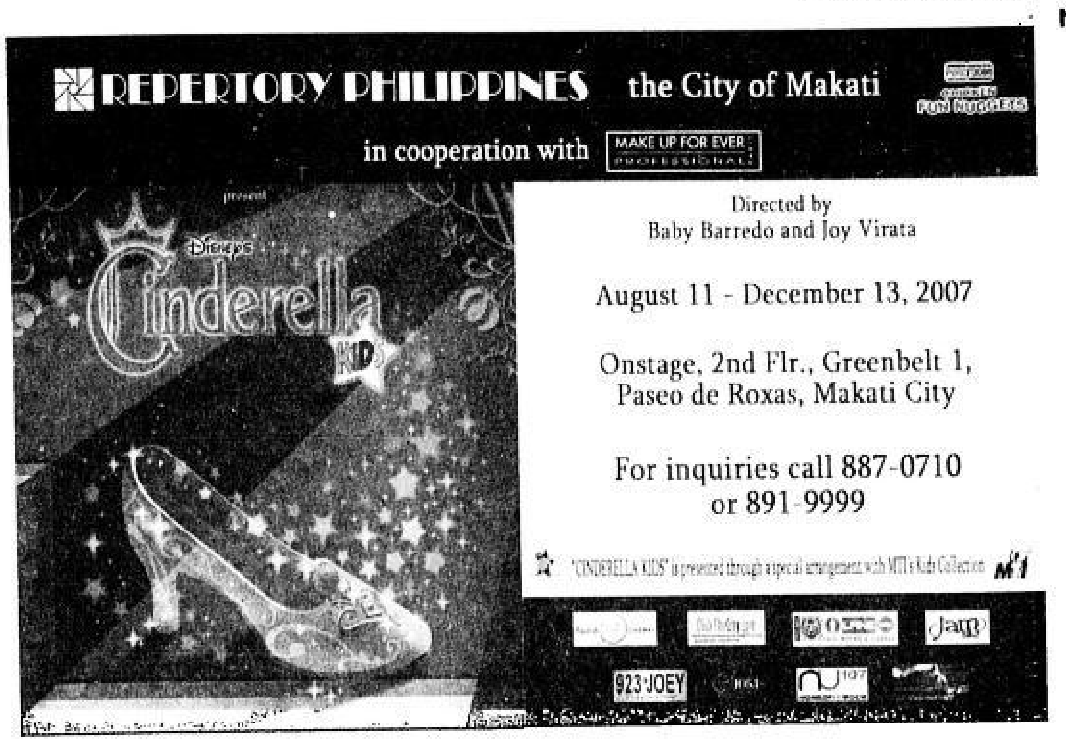
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

NOW SHOWING

THE BATTLE AMONG MEN AND BEASTS

FROM STAN WINSTON STUDIO
THE FX TEAM THAT GAVE YOU "TERMINATOR 3" & "WAR OF THE WORLDS"

SKINWALKERS



REPERTORY PHILIPPINES the City of Makati
in cooperation with MAKE UP FOR EVER PROFESSIONAL

present
Disney's Cinderella KIDS

Directed by
Baby Barredo and Joy Virata

August 11 - December 13, 2007

Onstage, 2nd Flr., Greenbelt 1,
Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

For inquiries call 887-0710
or 891-9999

"CINDERELLA KIDS" is presented through a special arrangement with MTI's Kids Collection

923 JOEY

Ayala Malls CINEMAS

EXCLUSIVE

OPENS SEPTEMBER 19
AT GLORIETTA 4
and GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

"A superbly crafted psychological thriller."
"A brilliant house-horror tale with Hitchcockean flair."
Duane Byrge, THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

Sam Rockwell Vera Farmiga

joshua

Not all children are innocent.

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

glorietta Greenbelt

Ayala Malls CINEMAS

The 1st International Silent Film Festival

The Sixth Sense

Don't miss classic Silent Films scored live by the country's best artists

September 4 The Adventures of Prince Achmed
Music by Drip
September 10 The Sixth Sense
Music by Wahijuara
September 13 The Monster Serpent
Music by Manilyng Ensemble

Greenbelt 3 Cinema 2, 8PM
Tickets selling starts at 4PM

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Araneta Center
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Gateway
ALIMALL FarmersPlaza
gatewaymall.com.ph

Gateway CINEPLEX*10

ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

DISTURBIA 12:50 / 3:05 / 5:20 / 7:35 / 9:50	NANCY DREW 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	DAY WATCH 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20	
LAST LEGION 2:35 / 7:15 1408 12:15 / 4:55 / 9:50	SKINWALKERS 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50	CHOPSUEY 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40	
THE INVASION 1:10 / 5:30 / 9:50	WAITRESS 1:50 / 4:30 / 7:10 / 9:50 A LOVE STORY 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	EVAN ALMIGHTY 3:20 / 7:40	NANCY DREW 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00

ALIMALL 5

1	DISTURBIA 11:40 / 1:55 / 4:10 / 6:25 / 8:40	2	A LOVE STORY 12:20 / 3:00 / 5:40 / 8:20	3	NANCY DREW 1:05 / 3:25 / 5:45 / 8:05
4	CHOPSUEY 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30	5	SKINWALKERS 12:05 / 2:15 / 4:25 / 6:35 / 8:45		DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

ARANETA COLISEUM
www.aranetacoliseum.com

UAAP BASKETBALL GAMES
Sep 8 Saturday 2pm UE vs UP 4pm NU vs FEU
Sep 9 Sunday 2pm UST vs Adu 4pm ADMU vs DLSU

FALL OUT BOY CONCERT
September 20 & 21 8pm

RIAN RIVERA

ZSAZSA PADILLA

RUDY ESPERAS

No stopping Angel

Angel Locsin left for Hong Kong Tuesday to shoot another TV ad there. She just finished her acting workshop and is raring to start her project with Piolo Pascual. No amount of cloudy intrigue-laden days can ever stop Angel's flying higher and higher.

Guess list

- Guess who this TV host is. She signed up as image model for the rival company of the establishment she used to endorse even if her contract hadn't lapsed. There were some legal impediments but the owner of the company just let her go. Endorsers like her are more incredible than credible because her reason for suddenly shifting from one company to another is so preposterous!
- Guess who this actor is. During a night out with a gay actor, their friends dared them to kiss and they gamely did. The actor's gender has always been in question. After that night, all doubts were confirmed. Is his closet queen phase finally closed?

New newscast

UNTV 37's "Ito Ang Balita" (M-F, 6-7 p.m.) is committed to delivering impartial reporting of the day's events. It is anchored by two respected broadcasters in the industry—Jay Sonza and Candice Giron. Segments include Business Sense, Sports Discipline and Police Blotter. Is Jay out to dislodge the newscast of his ex, Mel Tiangco ("24 Oras")?

I remember when Tito Jay told me the story behind the story of his split-up with Tita Mel. Suffice it to say that he's too much of a gentleman; that's why he just let Tita Mel do the talking when their breakup was hot news. It's up to the viewers to read between the (head)lines.

Personal

Kudos to my dear "V. Sister" Ces Drilon for the well-deserved Emmy nomination of "Bandila." A first for the country! That makes the Philippine *bandila* wave so proudly.

Belated birthday greetings to my friends from Bohol—Libby Sumampong, Kim Ellison Dungog and Osting Acuna.

E-mail wateringholeshangri-la@yahoo.com.

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 SKIN WALKERS 10:40, 12:55, 3:10 5:25, 7:40, 10:00 GP
CINEMA 2 1408 // THE INVASION 11:50, 2:05, 4:20 // 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 PG-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX
PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a diverTAINment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 DAY WATCH 11:50, 2:35, 5:15 7:55, 10:30 R-13
CINEMA 4 DISTURBIA 11:30, 1:50, 4:10 6:30, 8:50 PG-13
CINEMA 5 NANCY DREW 10:40, 12:55, 3:10 5:25, 7:40, 10:00 GP
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

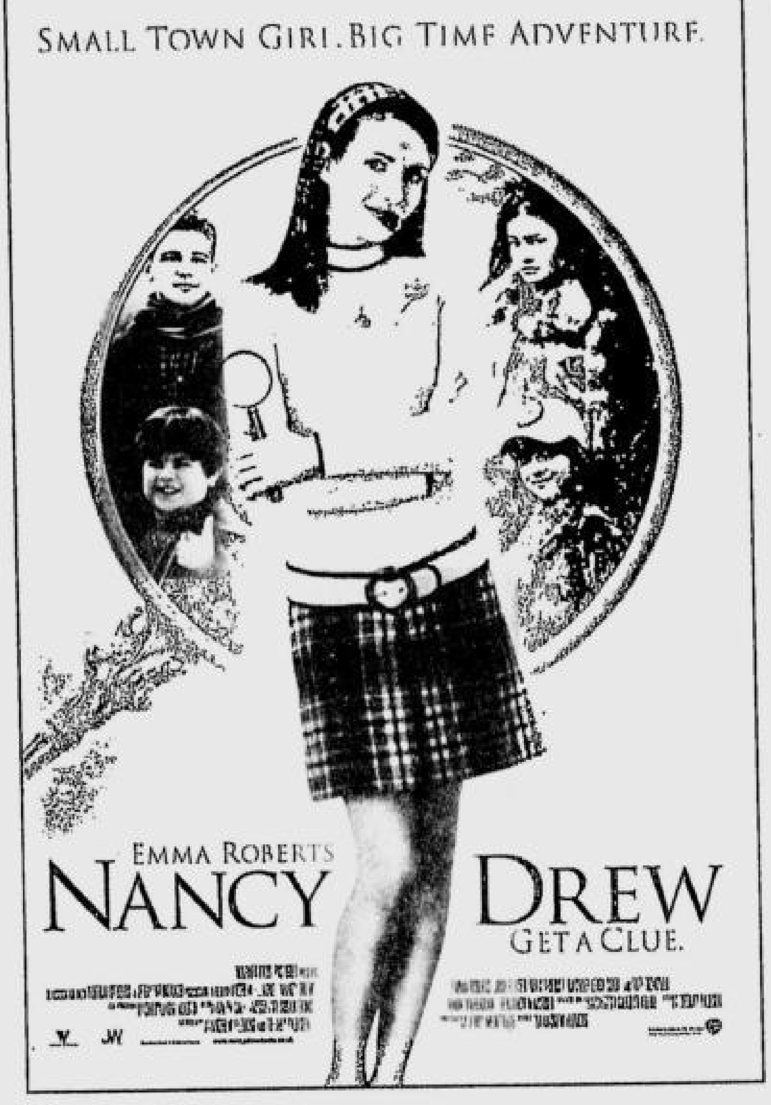
MUSIC MUSEUM

September 15, 2007	Rico J. w/ Ruffa Mae	8:00 PM
September 22, 2007	Jett Pangan, Michael De Mesa, Ricky Davao	8:00 PM
September 29, 2007	Sugarfree	8:00 PM
October 08 & 09, 2007	"Alamat" Stageplay	[illegible]

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

Sept. 7, 21, 28, 2007	Drag - Ons	10:00 PM
Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2007	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116



NOW SHOWING
MTRCB G General Audience ALL AGES ADMITTED
SMALL TOWN GIRL. BIG TIME ADVENTURE.
EMMA ROBERTS
NANCY DREW
GET A CLUE.

SHANG CINEPLEX
① NANCY DREW MTRCB GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
② DISTURBIA MTRCB PG-13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
③ NANCY DREW MTRCB GP 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
④ DAY WATCH MTRCB R-13 1:20, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE EVAN ALMIGHTY (GP) 1:20, 3:30 / HAIRSPRAY (GP) 6:00, 8:30
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
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A Blockbuster Gift for all Season
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Treat your family and friends to a thrilling movie experience only at the shang
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for more details
Shangri-La Plaza

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CINEMA
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DOLBY DIGITAL

1408 PG13 1:40,3:50,6:00 EVAN ALMIGHTY G 8:10,10:20	DAY WATCH R13 12:00,2:30,5:10, 7:50,10:30	NANCY DREW G 1:30,3:40,5:50, 8:00,10:10
THE INVASION PG13 1:00,3:15,5:30, 7:45,10:00	SKIN WALKERS R18 1:40,3:50,6:00, 8:10,10:20	DISTURBIA PG13 12:35,2;55,5:15, 7:35,10:20

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

AT THE CINEMAS
THX
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS G83 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

Mall	Cinema	Film	
GLORIETTA 1	1	CHOPSUEY	
	2	DISTURBIA	
	3	NANCY DREW	
	4	A LOVE STORY	
GLORIETTA 4	1	DAYWATCH	
	2	SKINWALKERS	
	3 THX	DISTURBIA	GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	ARE WE DONE YET?	
	5	THE INVASION	
	6	NANCY DREW	
	7	1408	
GREENBELT 1	1	DAYWATCH	
	2	NANCY DREW	
GREENBELT 3	1 THX	NANCY DREW	GUARANTEED SEATS
	2 THX	DISTURBIA	GUARANTEED SEATS
	3	HAIRSPRAY	GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	EVAN ALMIGHTY	GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	DAYWATCH	GUARANTEED SEATS
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX	DISTURBIA	
	2	NANCY DREW	
	3	DAYWATCH	
	4	THE INVASION	
	5	SKINWALKERS	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1	PAN'S LABYRINTH	
	2	PLANET TERROR	
	3	RISE	
	4	THE INVASION	
MARKET! MARKET!	1	CHOPSUEY	
	2	SKINWALKERS	
	3	NANCY DREW	
	4	DISTURBIA	
	5	DAYWATCH	
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1	EVAN ALMIGHTY	
	2	SKINWALKERS	
	3	DAYWATCH	GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	NANCY DREW	GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	CHOPSUEY	
	6	1408	
	7 THX	DISTURBIA	GUARANTEED SEATS

AT THE MALLS
CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000
Ayala Malls

Mall	Event
glorietta	Philippine Daily Inquirer's Job Fair September 3 to 5, 2007 at the Activity Center
GREENBELT	Sounds of Greenbelt featuring: Bloomfields September 6, 2007 at the Greenbelt 3 Park
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Anson's Exhibit September 1 to 16, 2007 at the Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 26; 6 PM; OnStage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	Lactum Mall Show September 8 & 9, 2007 at the Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids at REP's Globe Theater - Opens August 11, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
Ayala MUSEUM	Antiqueños: Homage to my Kasimanwas August 28 to September 10, 2007 For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Samsung Exhibit An exhibit of the latest Samsung mobile phones September 14 to 16; 10am to 9 pm; Starbucks / Food Choices Level 2

It was the perfect house. Until he decided to fix it.

EXCLUSIVE GUARANTEED VIEWING PLEASURE
NOW ON ITS 2ND WEEK AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS
"PERFECT FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT."
– Shawn Edwards, FOX 1
ICE CUBE
ARE WE DONE YET?
MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)

THE GREAT SPORTS OUTLET SALE
SEPT. 10-16
MARKET! MARKET!
ACTIVITY CENTER
adidas SPORTS DEPOT
FILA AND1 LA GEAR
Reva • Puma • Jansport • Diadora
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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. A2-317, SERIES OF 2007
glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

DID YOU KNOW...

'Foster Child' cinema run

BRILLANTE MENDOZA'S "FOSTER CHILD," WHICH PREMIERED AT THE LAST CANNES International Film Festival, opens in local cinemas on Sept. 12. Cast as parent-for-hire is Cherry Pie Picache, who was named Best Actress at the 9th Osian's Cinefan International Festival in India for said role. Mendoza says he feels a personal affinity with the movie, "being an adoptive father myself to a little girl who [has] brought sunshine to my somewhat dreary existence."

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

Ticket Price THX: P160 130 Indie Sine: 100 632-9116

1 THE INVASION • THX
2 DISTURBIA
3 indieSine:TRIBU
4 DAYWATCH
5 SKINWALKERS
6 NANCY DREW
7 THE LAST LEGION
EVAN ALMIGHTY
8 1408
9 A LOVE STORY
10 CHOPSEUY

ERMITA

Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 SKINWALKERS
2 A LOVE STORY
3 DISTURBIA
4 1408
5 NANCY DREW
6 DAY WATCH
7 CHOPSEUY

NOW SHOWING !

BAWAL PUMASOK DITO

JIM LIBIRAN'S highly-acclaimed

Tribu

WINNER, Best Picture, CINEMALAYA 2007
WINNER, Best Actors, CINEMALAYA 2007
WINNER, Best Actors CINEMANILA 2007
WINNER, Best Sound, CINEMALAYA 2007

August 29 to September 11!

indieSine

DON'T MISS THIS ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE!

ONLY AT INDIESINE, Robinsons Galleria!

METRO EAST

[illegible]

1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
THE LAST LEGION
2 DISTURBIA
3 SKINWALKERS
4 NANCY DREW
5 CHOPSEUY
6 THE INVASION
7 1408
8 A LOVE STORY

NOVALICHES

[illegible]

1 DISTURBIA
2 NANCY DREW
3 A LOVE STORY
4 CHOPSEUY

PIONEER

[illegible]

1 NANCY DREW
2 DAY WATCH
3 SKINWALKERS
4 DISTURBIA

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 1408
2 CASA
3 THREE
4 THE INVASION

LIPA

Ticket Price: (043) 757-3864 P90 (043) 312-5870

1 RISE
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 A LOVE STORY
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY

DASMARINAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 THE INVASION
2 1408
3 THREE
4 SINKING of JAPAN

IMUS

(046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 1408
2 A LOVE STORY
3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 THREE

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P 90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 RISE
2 SINKING of JAPAN
3 CASA
4 THREE

TARLAC

1 A LOVE STORY
2 LICENSE to WED
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY

STARMILLS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (045) 875-1927

1 RISE
2 SINKING of JAPAN
3 A LOVE STORY
4 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
5 1408
6 RUSH HOUR 3

BACOLOD

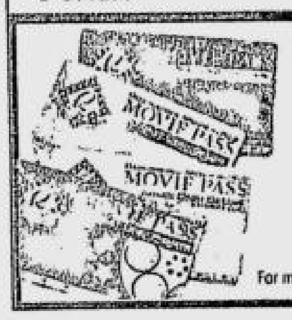
Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 DON'T LOOK BACK
2 BLIND DATING
3 A LOVE STORY
4 THREE
5 BORDERTOWN
6 CASA

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 DON'T LOOK BACK
2 THE INVASION
3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 A LOVE STORY
5 HAIRSPRAY
6 CASA



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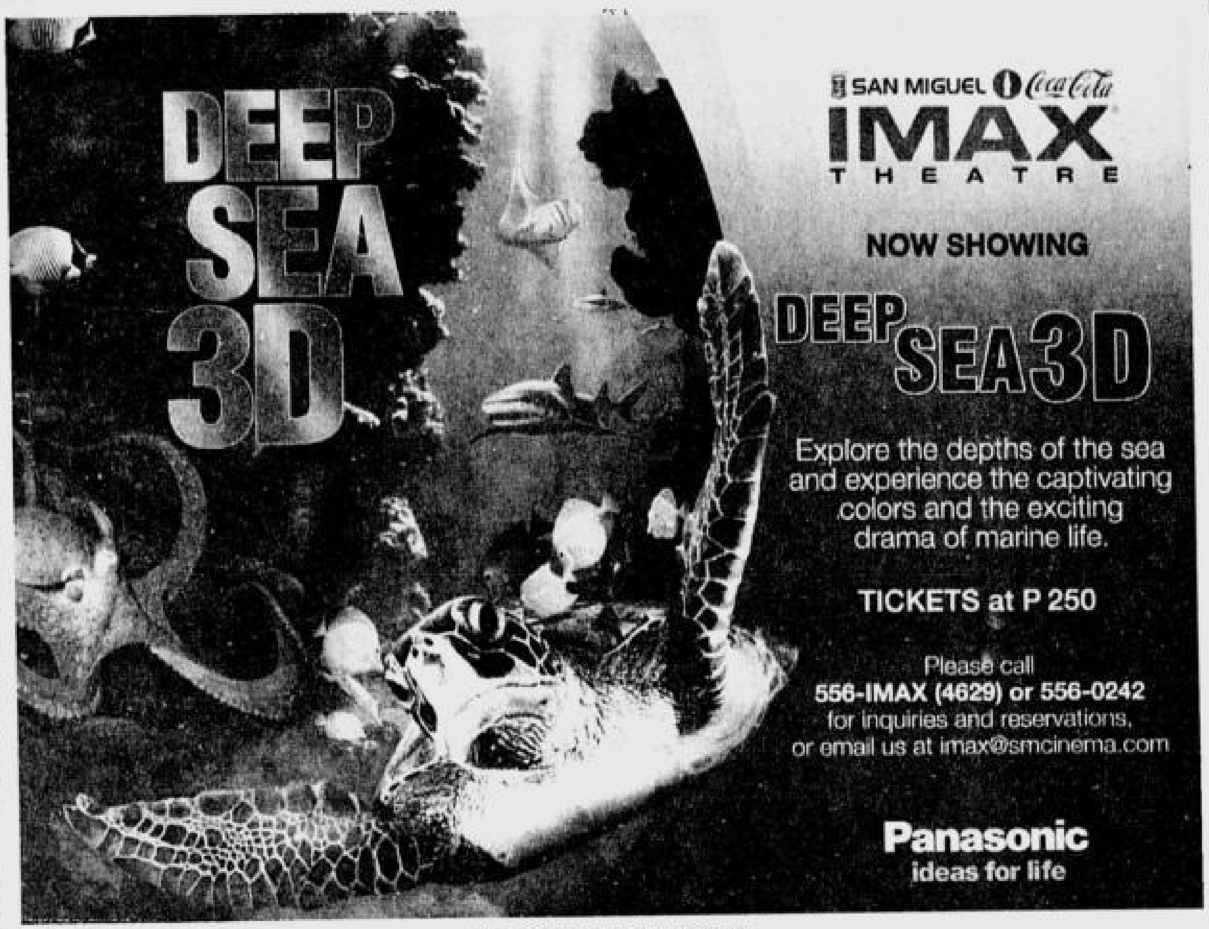

SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX THEATRE

NOW SHOWING

DEEP SEA 3D

Explore the depths of the sea and experience the captivating colors and the exciting drama of marine life.

TICKETS at P 250

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or email us at imax@smcinema.com

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METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104

SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX

DEEP SEA 3D Admission Price: P250
12:00 AM • 1:30PM • 6:00 PM • 7:30 PM • 9:00PM
HARRY POTTER 3:00 PM Admission Price: P350 • P400

1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 NANCY DREW
3 DISTURBIA
4 DAY WATCH
5 SKINWALKERS
6 CHOPSUEY

PREMIERE CINEMA
RUSH HOUR 3

CENTERSTAGE
1408

DIRECTOR'S CLUB
Bookings now accepted. Inquire at 556-2314.

THE PODIUM

CINEMA 1
DAY WATCH

CINEMA 2
DISTURBIA

For ticket reservation, dial 6338976
All major credit card accepted

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452

1 DISTURBIA
2 A LOVE STORY
3 DAY WATCH
4 NANCY DREW
5 SKINWALKERS
6 INVASION
7 RUSH HOUR 3
8 EVAN ALMIGHTY
9 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
10 CHOPSUEY
11 1408
12 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 DAY WATCH
2 NANCY DREW
3 1408
4 DISTURBIA
5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
6 SKINWALKERS
7 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
8 INVASION
9 CHOPSUEY
10 A LOVE STORY
11 RUSH HOUR 3
12 GANDHI, MY FATHER

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1 INVASION
2 NANCY DREW
3 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 SKINWALKERS
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 LAST LEGION
7 1408
8 A LOVE STORY
9 EVAN ALMIGHTY
10 RUSH HOUR 3
11 DISTURBIA
12 CHOPSUEY

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 DISTURBIA
2 1408
3 NANCY DREW
4 SKINWALKERS
5 A LOVE STORY
6 EVAN ALMIGHTY
7 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
8 CHOPSUEY
9 RUSH HOUR 3
10 LAST LEGION

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 1408
2 DISTURBIA
3 SKINWALKERS
4 NANCY DREW
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 A LOVE STORY

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 DISTURBIA
2 NANCY DREW
3 1408
4 DAY WATCH
5 A LOVE STORY
6 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
7 EVAN ALMIGHTY
8 SKINWALKERS
9 CHOPSUEY

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 DISTURBIA
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 1408
4 SKINWALKERS

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 DISTURBIA
3 CHOPSUEY
4 1408
5 NANCY DREW
6 SKINWALKERS
7 RUSH HOUR 3
8 LAST LEGION
9 A LOVE STORY
10 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
11 DAY WATCH
12 EVAN ALMIGHTY

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
2 INVASION
3 BLADES OF GLORY
4 1408

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 1408
2 SKINWALKERS
3 INVASION
4 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1 1408
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 SKINWALKERS
4 DISTURBIA

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1 SKINWALKERS
2 CHOPSUEY
3 1408
4 A LOVE STORY
5 LAST LEGION
6 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
7 EVAN ALMIGHTY
8 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 1408
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 RISE
4 A LOVE STORY
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 SINKING OF JAPAN

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 LICENSE TO WED
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RISE

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 RISE
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 A LOVE STORY
4 SINKING OF JAPAN

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 RISE
3 OSS 117
4 1408
5 A LOVE STORY
6 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1 A LOVE STORY
2 HAIRSPRAY
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 RISE

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 1408
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RISE

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3100

1 DAY WATCH
2 SKINWALKERS
3 DISTURBIA
4 NANCY DREW

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811

1 A LOVE STORY
2 1408
3 INVASION
4 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 PLANET TERROR
3 A LOVE STORY
4 SIGNOS
5 RISE
6 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 BORDER TOWN
3 SIGNOS
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 HAIRSPRAY
2 INVASION
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 A LOVE STORY
5 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
6 EVAN ALMIGHTY
7 RESERVED
8 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 BLIND DATING
3 RISE
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY
5 CHOPSUEY
6 INVASION
7 A LOVE STORY
8 PLANET TERROR

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010

1 BLADES OF GLORY
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 A LOVE STORY
4 BORDERTOWN

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA